

Friday
23rd December, 1949

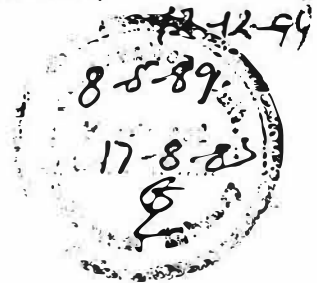
THE
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA
(LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

OFFICIAL REPORT

VOLUME IV, 1949

(28th November to 24th December, 1949)



SIXTH SESSION
OF THE
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA
(LEGISLATIVE)

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Friday, 23rd December, 1949

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ORAL ANSWERS

*266. [WITHDRAWN.]

NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES FOR WORKERS

*267. Shri E. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in pursuance of the Ordinance by the Government of India for the issue of National Savings Certificates to workers of textile mills, workers have taken advantage of the scheme, and if so, how many?

(b) Is it a fact that subsequent amendments were made in the Ordinance to enable workers to cash the Certificate immediately if they so desire?

(c) If so, what are the advantages in issuing such certificates?

(d) Were the respective Unions of workers consulted before such an Ordinance was issued?

(e) How many of such Unions after the promulgation of the Ordinance opposed the whole scheme?

(f) What are the future plans of Government in this matter?

The Honourable Dr. John Mathai: (a) Yes. A large number of workers have taken advantage of scheme. The exact number cannot be stated as complete details are not yet available.

(b) Yes.

(c) The idea was to create the habit of saving while defeating unfounded rumours that the money would not be returned to owners of certificates.

(d) The employees' representative at the Bombay Industrial Court expressed his Union's willingness to accept a part of the Bonus in the form of certificates.

(e) The scheme was opposed by certain Textile Workers' Unions at Bombay.

(f) The matter is under consideration.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know what is the percentage of the certificates which the workers have taken and have cashed?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I cannot give a precise estimate just now because the information is not complete but I should say about 2/3rd have been prematurely cashed.

SENIOR CAMBRIDGE EXAMINATIONS.

*888. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state how many schools exist in India which prepare for Senior Cambridge examinations?

(b) Is there any restriction in regard to the admission of boys in these schools and if so, what are these?

(c) Do Government give grants to all these schools, and if so, what is the amount?

(d) Do Government intend to continue to recognise these Institutions?

(e) Are any special advantages given to boys who pass out from such schools for Government services and if so, what are they?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) to (c). A statement containing the requisite information in so far as Centrally Administered Areas and Schools maintained by the Central Government are concerned, is laid on the Table. (See Appendix XXI, *annexure No. 1.*)

(d) These schools have been in existence for a number of years and people have generally liked the education given in them. Government have not yet decided what they would do with these institutions in the new context of things. Government propose to have a Commission to go into the entire question of the secondary education. The question of these institutions will also come before this Commission.

(e) None. The second part does not arise.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know pending the appointment of this Commission whether Government intend to admit new admissions to Senior Cambridge Examinations in the present schools?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: Till the scheme is materialized, I think there is every likelihood of the *status quo* being continued in some form or another.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: What is going to be the scope of this Commission, is it going to consider the question of secondary education in the Centrally administered areas or over the whole of India?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: Whole of India.

DRUG FOR LEPROSY

*889. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a new drug has been discovered for leprosy treatment?

(b) If so, who is the discoverer of this drug and has it been experimented with and if so, with what success?

(c) Where was this drug experimented?

(d) Has such a drug been used on the leprosy patients in India?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) to (d). A few new drugs have been reported to be effective in leprosy treatment during the recent past. A statement in respect of these drugs is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Quite a few new drugs have been reported to be effective in leprosy treatment during the recent past. These are (i) Derivatives of diamino-diphenylsulphone, (ii) Streptomycin, (iii) Paramino-Salicylic acid.

All these drugs are well known to leprosy workers in India and the work particularly on sulphonic preparations has received international recognition. Sulphone group of drugs was first manufactured by an English Firm, and later on many of the commercial firms in England and the United States of America started producing it. Promin, Diazone and Sulphetron are members of the sulphone group. The first two had been in use in the treatment of leprosy for the last three or four years but the last one (sulphetron) has come into use only recently. The reports of the results have been very encouraging in the hands of American, British and Indian workers. The drug is being tried on a limited scale in the Lady Willingdon Leprosy Sanatorium at Chingleput, Madras, School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta and in many other leprosy houses in the country.

Several months ago Government saw reports of the use of another drug called 'Oxydiphtheric Acid' in the treatment of leprosy by Russian workers. Definite information is, however, not yet available regarding the specific value of this treatment. Efforts are being made to obtain samples of medicine and literature regarding the composition and specific value of this drug in the treatment of leprosy.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether this new treatment is found to be very successful in Cyprus as stated by the Director of Medical Services in that country and if so, whether any experiment has been made in this country by Government?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Government is carrying out experiments at various places, primarily at Chingleput, Madras, and the results have been encouraging. We are aware of what is happening in Cyprus.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the result of experiments so far in India?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have just said that the results of treatment with this new drug sulphone, which is the latest, are encouraging.

DUES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF BURMA

*870. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that certain amount was due to the Government of India from the Burma Government at the time of separation of Burma from India?

(b) If so, what was the amount and what was the purpose for which the amount was originally paid?

(c) When is the amount likely to be recovered?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The separation debt of Burma was fixed at Rs. 50,79,81,000. It represents Burma's share of the net outstanding debt of the Government of India on the date of the separation and is not related to any amount paid to the Government of Burma.

(c) The debt is repayable in 45 years commencing from 1937-39. The payments have, however, remained suspended from 1942-48 when Burma was over-run by the Japanese and the question of resuming them is under discussion with the Government of Burma.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: Is there any likelihood of recovering this amount? If so, are negotiations going on and with what results? Can the House have some idea of this?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: We are still exploring the possibilities in consultation with the Government of Burma.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: May I know whether at any stage this discussion took place and, if so, whether Burma Government have shown any indication of continuing the payment of instalments hereafter regularly?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: We have not so far reached any definite conclusions but the Honourable Member will appreciate that in the present financial position of Burma the question of payment presents certain difficulties.

Shri B. Das: May I enquire whether at any stage of financial negotiations with the U.K. Government regarding debt allocation to India and consolidated loans to Burma, it was contemplated that U.K. should take over this loan, or that the loan should be transferred from India to U.K.?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No.

Shri B. Das: Is it not a fact that it was U.K. that compelled India to bear this burden and why should India . . .

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jais: What is the amount outstanding now?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The original amount as I stated in my reply is 50 crores odd. That is the total amount. Payment has been suspended from 1942. If you take the outstanding principal plus the interest outstanding plus certain pension payments which Burma has got to make, my own estimate is, that the total amount payable today would be somewhere of the order of 64 crores.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know at what rate the interest is charged?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: 3½ per cent.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know if this is adjustable in regard to the trade balance with Burma?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: May I know if any effort is made by Government to see that this payment is adjusted towards purchases of rice that we are purchasing from Burma?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is an entirely different question.

TRAINING FOR TECHNICIANS

Shri B. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether Government have taken any steps to provide Education for Technicians for industries in India?

(b) If so, have any centres been opened?

(c) How many students have been trained and how many have found employment?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) and (b). The steps taken by Government for the provision

of facilities for education and training of technicians for industry are as follows:

- (i) *Higher Education and Training.*—Government have given grants to the provinces from the development funds for improving and strengthening the facilities in the existing engineering and technological institutions. In addition, schemes have been sanctioned for direct financial aid to the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, for an all-round improvement and expansion and to selected non-government technological institutions recommended by the All-India Council for Technical Education, for the same purpose. A Central Higher Technical Institute is being established at Hijli, near Calcutta. This institute will provide extensive facilities including those for post-graduate work and research.
- (ii) *Training for Charwomen and Foremen.*—Government have instituted a training scheme in the Sindri Fertiliser Factory and 55 trainees have been provided for in the first instance.
- (iii) *Training for Artisans and Craftsmen.*—Schemes for technical and vocational training have been instituted for this purpose. In September 1949, 74 technical training centres and 79 vocational training centres were functioning. Apprentice training facilities have been provided in 318 industrial undertakings. Under the first two schemes, training has been provided for demobilised services personnel and persons displaced from Pakistan. It has now been decided to have, in place of the temporary schemes, a scheme for the training of adult civilians and facilities for the training of 10,000 persons are proposed to be provided. An aeronautical trade apprenticeship training scheme is operating at the Hindustan Aircraft Ltd., Bangalore, to train Indian nationals for skilled crafts in aircraft production and maintenance. Provision has been made under this scheme for 150 trainees.

In addition to the above, arrangements exist for the practical training of technicians in Indian and foreign firms through the purchase organisations of the Government. A scheme for the award of about 450 industrial training stipends for graduates and diploma holders has also been approved and will be put into operation very soon.

(c) It is believed that most of the students who have passed out from institutions under category (i) above, have found suitable employment. Statistics in this connection are not available. In so far as the technical training centres are concerned, 21585 trainees passed out of these centres upto September 1949 and of this number, approximately 60 per cent. are believed to have found employment.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the schemes mentioned by the Honourable Minister stand ready for execution immediately or will they be held over in view of retrenchment?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I have said in my reply that they are functioning and Government will make all possible efforts to see that they continue to function.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Minister stated in his reply that grants are being given to various institutions and that there is a new scheme also. May I know the total amount given to those institutions and whether they will also come under the cut or will continue?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I want notice.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: With regard to part (b), may I know the probable time when the Higher Technological Institute to be started in Calcutta will come into working?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: By some time in 1950.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: How long does Government expect it will take to absorb the remaining 40 per cent?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I cannot say. But all efforts are being made, and will be made, for absorbing them also.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is the number approximately, if not accurately, of foreign experts, technicians and advisers who are in India today in connection with the working of these various schemes?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I am afraid I have not got that information with me at present.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know whether Government is giving these trained technicians any financial aid after the training to assist them in starting their own business?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: No.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: In view of the great necessity of trained technicians in this country, will Government see that no cut is made in this direction?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

ILLEGAL DISTILLATION OF LIQUOR

*672. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state how many cases of illegal distillation of liquor have been detected in the centrally administered areas during the years 1948-49 and 1949-50 to date?

(b) What are the respective numbers of (i) convicted; (ii) discharged; and (iii) under-trial cases?

(c) What is the total amount of fines realised from these cases?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix XXI, annexure No. 2.)

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: How many of these Centrally administered areas are under partial or complete prohibition?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is really a question which must be referred to my honourable colleague the Minister for Home Affairs. But as far as I am in a position to say—and I speak subject to correction—for Ajmer-Merwara there is a definite plan for the introduction of complete prohibition by 1953-54. As far as other Centrally administered areas are concerned, the proposal is to introduce prohibition by stages without any definite time-limit.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know which of the two incomes, namely, the amount of fines realised for illegal distillation and the licence fee collected for liquor shops, is greater?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The Honourable Member will find it from the statement I have placed on the Table.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know whether it is a fact that prohibition gives an incentive to illegal distillation?

Mr. Speaker: That is a matter of opinion.

Shri H. V. Kamath: From reports received by the Honourable Minister, is he in a position to tell the House whether illicit distillation of liquor is on the increase or on the decrease?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not in a position to say anything on that.

Shri M. Trumala Rao: Cannot the Honourable Minister give the House the total amount of fines collected instead of referring us to a statement which is not available?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The total amount of fines realized in 1948-49 is Rs. 10,560 and in 1949-50 (up to date) Rs. 3,504.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know the approximate area in which the distillation of liquor is illegal?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am concerned only with the finance of this matter.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that the excise duty in Delhi on the sale of liquor has risen by about 50 per cent. during the last year?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not in a position to answer it now.

TUBERCULOSIS SANATORIA

*873. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state the total number of beds in tuberculosis sanatoria in India (i) paying; and (ii) non-paying?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (i) Paying beds—2,342. (ii) Non-paying beds—1,015.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: What is the monthly charge for these paying beds?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The average charge for tuberculosis patients in hospitals works out at about Rs. 1,500 a year.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: May I know how many of these beds belong to privately managed sanatoria?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I am afraid I could not give the exact numbers. The statement gives the names of all the sanatoria that are managed by Government, those that are aided by Government and those that are managed privately. But I would have to have notice as to how many patients there are in each of them.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: May I know how many sanatoria are State-managed?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The Honourable Member will get the complete figures in the statement that will be laid on the Table.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is the incidence of tuberculosis in India and the annual mortality figures?

Mr. Speaker: That can be found from any Report.

Sardar Hakim Singh: May I know whether any of these sanatoria has special wards for student-patients?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: No.

Sardar Hakim Singh: Do Government provide any other facilities for students who are suffering from T.B.?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: No, except that they are admitted into the existing sanatoria and hospitals, and, as far as possible, free treatment is given to them—it is all free.

Shri S. Nagappa: In view of the acute shortage of beds in our hospitals, may I know whether Government is considering any scheme to increase the bed strength in the hospitals?

Mr. Speaker: It is practically a suggestion for action.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it not a fact that the number of beds in the Delhi Tuberculosis Hospital is very much less than the requirement and that patients have to wait for many months before they can get admission into the general wards?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I am painfully aware of it.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Does Government propose to give a fair trial to the Ayurvedic treatment of tuberculosis?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Does it not arise?

Mr. Speaker: No.

MINERAL SPRINGS (SPAS) IN INDIA

*374. **Dr. Mono Mohon Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether the waters of various famous springs (hot and cold) in India have been examined for their curative properties?

(b) Have Government any list of springs in this country, the waters of which are largely used by people for their curative properties?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) and (b). The waters of most of the springs have been examined. A list of mineral springs in the various Provinces is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix XXI, annexure No. 3.)

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: Is it under the contemplation of Government to bring foreign experts to make a thorough enquiry about this matter?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Government have no intention of bringing any foreign experts, but as soon as funds are available and our schemes are ready, and we are prepared to develop spas and after the Committee has reported as to which are capable of development, they will be proceeded with.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das: Which are the springs which Government have in contemplation to develop?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have said that we have got a list of all of them and most of the waters have been examined. But we would have to make a further survey as to which are the ones we should develop in the first instance.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Will the scientists in India be utilised for the purpose before going to foreign countries to get scientists?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have already said that we have no intention of going to foreign countries for this purpose.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the Honourable Minister any figures to show how many of our people go to foreign countries for spa treatment annually?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have not got any information on that.

BORDER RAIDS FROM PAKISTAN

†*875. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the raids by the Pakistan Nationals into the Indian territory on the border are very frequent; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to stop recurrence of such raids?

The Honourable Shri Baldev Singh: (a) Yes.

(b) Government have taken all possible steps in this direction, but it will be appreciated that it is not always possible to prevent minor raids even across the best guarded frontier in any country.

GUIDE BOOKS

†*876. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether a survey has been made and handbooks prepared for the guidance of those seeking recreation and enjoyment by travel?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): A preliminary survey of places of tourist attraction within India was conducted in 1945 by a Committee under the Chairmanship of Sir John Sargent. A handbook on Kashmir, has already been issued. The preparation of a general guide book and regional guide books for selected centres of interest is on hand.

HINDI LESSON BY A.I.R.

†*877. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the fact that Hindi will be the national language of India as early as practicable, Government will consider the proposal of making it a regular item of programme to give lessons in the national language in those regions where the regional language is other than Hindi; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in this direction?

The Honourable Shri B. R. Dwakar: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All the nine non-Hindi Stations of All India Radio, namely Calcutta, Shillong-Guhati, Cuttack, Madras, Tiruchi, Vijayawada, Bombay, Baroda and Ahmedabad, started broadcasting a graduated course of 65 Hindi lessons on the 18th December.

† Answer to this question laid on the Table, the questioner being absent.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

*878. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state what is going to be the pattern of organisation of the Territorial Army in India?

(b) How many have been recruited so far and what is the target figure aimed at?

(c) Can Government servants join the Territorial Army?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to an illustrated pamphlet on the subject recently issued by Army Headquarters. A copy of the pamphlet is available in the Library of the House.

(b) The number of recruits enrolled throughout India from the date recruitment was begun, namely, the 9th October 1949, up to the 22nd November 1949 is 971, while the target for the units to be raised in 1949-50 is 26,484.

(c) A Government servant with the prescribed qualifications can join the Territorial Army provided he has obtained permission from the Government and also a certificate to the effect that his services will be made available for the Territorial Army whenever required.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know where these recruits are being trained?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: In different centres all over the country.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: May I know why, out of the target figure of 26,484, only such a small number as 971 have so far been recruited? Is there any specific reason for this?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The units that we are now raising are technical units. That is why the number is small.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know which of the Provinces have contributed more to the Territorial Army?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have not got that information just now, but as I stated in my reply, recruitment has been made from all over the country.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Do Government ascertain the political predilection of the applicants before they are admitted into the Territorial Army?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Yes, a close examination is made.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: What is the channel through which it is ascertained?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The usual channel.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether recruitment was made from the acceding States also?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Oh, yes. This recruitment is made from all over the country and the States also are included in the zones. There are altogether eight zones and all the States are included in one or the other zone.

MANUAL BASIC EDUCATION

*379. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state what progress has been made in regard to the introduction of the Manual Basic Education Scheme?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to starred question No. 377 asked by Dr. Mono Mohon Das on 7th December, 1949 regarding Wardha Scheme of Education.

The gist of the reply is that the Basic Education scheme has been accepted by the Central and Provincial Governments and is being implemented. A great obstacle to rapid progress is shortage of funds.

MANUFACTURE OF PREFABRICATED HOUSES (SCHOOL FOR TRAINING)

*380. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a P.T.I. report from Bombay dated the 12th November 1949, and published in the *Indian News Chronicle*, dated the 13th November 1949, to the effect that a technical school to train Indians in the construction of prefabricated houses will soon be set up in New Delhi and that Government have concluded an agreement with a British firm of engineers for the purpose; and

(b) whether the report is correct?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) Yes.

(b) The report is not correct.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the attention of the Minister been drawn to a statement made by Mr. Reed of Reema Construction Co., from London or Bombay that he had been recently to India and had discussed this matter with the Government of India?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I don't know what statement Mr. Reed has made in England, but I happened to see Mr. Reed this morning and he stated that he had given no interview to the Press in India.

As far as the Reema Construction Company is concerned, they are going to build here for us. I have fully replied to that question quite recently in this House.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is Reema Construction going to build a factory here or only start a school for training Indians in the construction of prefabricated houses?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have already answered fully in regard to what the Reema Construction is going to do here. In the first instance, they are going to build hospital wards in India for the Government.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is there a scheme at all for the training of Indians in the construction of prefabricated houses, under the consideration of Government?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: No, Sir, not at the moment.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know if the whole story published in the *Indian News Chronicle* is fabricated, or only that part which pertains to the firm of

engineers? I want to know exactly whether there is any training centre going to be opened at Delhi for training in construction of pre-fabs.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have already stated that no training centre is going to be opened.

Shri H. V. Kamath: In the Government Housing Factory at present in Delhi, is there no scheme at all for the training of Indians in the construction of pre-fabricated houses?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: That question has already been replied to on the floor of this House before. Indians are being trained in the Government factory.

C. P. AND BERAR STATES

*881. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Rulers of the merged states of the Central Provinces and Berar were given permission to hold Dushehra Durbars this year, as usual?

(b) If so, in which of the States Dushehra Durbars were held?

(c) Was the permission to hold the Durbars given by the Government of India or by the Provincial Government and why?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (c). Permission of Government is not necessary for the holding of Durbars by the Rulers in their capital on the occasion of national festivals.

(b) I regret we have no information as to the Rulers who held the Durbar.

Shri R. L. Malviya: Is the Government aware that Durbars were actually held and that that has a bad effect on the people?

Mr. Speaker: I don't see how this question is permissible.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Do Government have any objection to holding a mock Durbar?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Of the Members of Parliament?

SMUGGLING OF COTTON AND JUTE INTO PAKISTAN

*882. **Shri Santanu Kumar Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that raw cotton from Lushai Hills and raw cotton and raw jute from Garo-Hills have been smuggled into Pakistan in large quantities?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken against those persons who have smuggled the goods?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) There is reason to believe that the commodities mentioned are finding their way to Pakistan through unauthorised routes; but in view of the extensive frontier without natural barriers the number of cases detected is negligible.

(b) The number of cases detected are departmentally adjudicated by the Customs authorities, and in cases where the offence is established goods are confiscated subject to payment of redemption fines and/or personal penalties. Steps are also being taken to increase preventive measures.

Shri Santanu Kumar Das: What is the total quantity of goods confiscated?

The Honourable Dr. John Mathai: I am not in a position to give that information, but it is very inconsiderable.

Shri Santanu Kumar Das: How many persons were involved in it?

The Honourable Dr. John Mathai: I am afraid, Sir, I have not got the information here.

LOAN TO KASHMIR STATE

***883. Dr. Bakhshi Fakir Ahmad:** Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state the total amount which has been advanced as loan to the Kashmir State up to the 31st of October, 1949?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Up to October 31st, 1949 loans amounting to 3½ crores were advanced to the Jammu and Kashmir State.

SALARIES OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

***884. Giani Gurmukh Singh Munnar:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state what is the number of permanent Government officials who are drawing salaries more than double their substantive pay?

(b) What would be the total of substantive pay due to them for the year 1948-49, and what is the total of salaries actually paid to them for the same year?

(c) What is the number of such officers who have been officiating with a salary more than double their permanent pay for the last five years?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) to (c). I regret the information is not readily available and the time and labour involved in collecting it will not be commensurate with its utility.

RARE MANUSCRIPTS IN BIKANER

***885. Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rare Sanskrit manuscripts in the Fort of Bikaner;

(b) whether they were thrown open to research scholars about ten years ago; and

(c) whether they have recently become the private property of the Ruler who has withdrawn all research facilities?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) There is a large number of rare Sanskrit manuscripts in the Fort of Bikaner the exact details of which are not available.

(b) Government of India have no information.

(c) These manuscripts are the private property of the Maharaja but as far as is known research facilities have not been withdrawn by him.

DEVALIATION

***886. Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the articles on

devaluation published in the *Harijan* dated the 9th and 16th October 1949 headed "Devaluation of the Rupee" and "The Moral of Devaluation" respectively; and

(b) whether Government propose to consider the measures suggested therein for counteracting the evil effects of devaluation?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main objectives suggested in this article, *vis.*, economy in Government expenditure, reduction in imports so as to bring them within the country's resources, counteracting inflationary forces in the country's economy and increasing production in the country are broadly identical with some of those adopted by the Government of India, as part of the eight-point economic programme announced by me in the course of the parliamentary debate on devaluation.

The Government do not consider it practicable under the present conditions to implement many of the measures suggested.

COINS AND PAPER CURRENCY

*887. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of paper currency and silver rupees in circulation immediately before and after World War I;

(b) the amount of paper currency and rupees in circulation immediately before World War II;

(c) the amounts of one rupee and two rupee notes printed during World War II, and the total amounts thereof in circulation today;

(d) when the old silver rupees in circulation during World War II were withdrawn, when and in what amounts the new silver and nickel rupees were minted, and the total amounts of these coins in circulation at present;

(e) the reasons for minting nickel rupees, and for reducing the size of the coin;

(f) whether Government have considered the inadvisability of putting in circulation nickel rupees side by side with silver rupees; and

(g) whether Government are aware of the reluctance on the part of the public and the trade to accept nickel rupees?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Total notes in circulation at the end of March, 1914, and March, 1919, amounted to Rs. 49.97 crores and Rs. 133.58 crores, respectively.

(b) Rs. 182.13 crores of notes were in circulation on the 1st September, 1939.

(c) One rupee notes of Rs. 304.80 crores and two rupee notes of Rs. 69 crores were printed.

One rupee notes in circulation amount to about Rs. 44 crores; and Rs. 2 notes to about Rs. 28 crores.

(d) The withdrawal of standard silver rupees started in April, 1941 and the process was completed in November, 1943. Quaternary rupees were first put into circulation on the 23rd December, 1940 and nickel rupees on the 2nd June, 1947. The total supply of quaternary rupees and nickel rupees received by the Reserve Bank of India from the India Government Mints up to the 15th

December, 1949, amounts to about Rs. 104.85 crores and Rs. 17.28 crores, respectively. The circulation of quaternary rupees and nickel rupees as on the 9th December, 1949, stands at about Rs. 82.81 crores and Rs. 12.57 crores, respectively.

(e) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the press note issued by Government on the 23rd of May, 1946, from which it will be seen that owing to inadequate supplies of silver in the open market and the prevailing high prices in India, it was considered wasteful to use silver for coinage, especially as pure nickel is eminently suitable for coinage purposes owing to its special physical characteristics. Moreover, this would make it easier for Government to return silver borrowed from the Government of the United States of America between 1943 and 1945.

The size of the coin has been reduced in diameter from 1.2 inches to 1.1 inches for technical reasons on account of the new type of metal used.

(f) Standard silver rupees were demonetised long ago and are no longer legal tender. Further issue of quaternary rupees has also been stopped, and these are being gradually withdrawn from circulation.

(g) No.

Shri H. V. Kamath: In regard to the answers given about paper currency, is the Honourable Minister in a position to tell the House as to how many thousand-rupee notes were in circulation at the time the Demonetisation Ordinance was issued in 1946?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I cannot give the information straight-away, but I can find it for the honourable Member.

Shri B. Das: With reference to the reply to part (c) which mentions a circulation of Rs. 374 crores worth of one rupee and two rupee notes, may I know what percentage of this amount has been destroyed by handling—you know these rupee notes are passed from hand to hand and get destroyed—and consequently the Government's liability has been reduced to that extent?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It requires a considerable amount of research, but I am prepared to oblige the Honourable Member if he is very keen on getting this information.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: What would be the metallic value of the present nickel rupee?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It has got to be calculated. It will be very much less than the face value.

Begum Aisar Rasul: Can the Honourable Minister tell the House how much money is in circulation in the United Provinces?

Mr. Speaker: Is he able to give that figure?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is not a calculation which it is possible to make with any sort of accuracy.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: In regard to answer to part (c) of the question regarding the issue of one rupee and two rupee notes, may I know the security against which these notes were issued?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Well, Sir, the one rupee notes are not fiduciary currency. They are supposed to be coins.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: In view of the fact that the intrinsic value of the metal rupee is very low, is any security arranged against which this coin is issued?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The question of security does not arise here.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: What proportion of the currency notes is secured by Government?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is fully secured.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will you, Sir, be so good as to treat Question 888 as unstarred in favour of Question 897?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid he has come too late. It might as well be withdrawn.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I do not want to put 888. It may be treated as unstarred and I might be permitted to put 897 instead.

Mr. Speaker: All right. Next Question—889.

CURRENCY REFORMS

*889. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the articles headed "Combating Inflation and High Prices" and "Currency and Finance" published in *The Harijan*, dated the 3rd July 1949 and the 2nd October 1949 respectively; and

(b) whether Government propose to consider the scheme of currency reform propounded therein?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes.

(b) No. Government do not consider the scheme practicable.

CIRCULATION OF *The Blitz* IN THE ARMY

*889. **Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state if a circular has been issued that *The Blitz*, an English Weekly published from Bombay, should be discouraged in the Army Headquarters and elsewhere among the Army?

(b) If so, what are the reasons for it?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

LITERATURE AND NEWSPAPERS FOR THE ARMY

*890. **Shri Damodar Swarup Seth:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact, that instructions have been issued by the Defence Ministry, to the Armed Forces Commands that all ranks should be discouraged from reading non-Congress papers and literature; and

(b) what facilities, if any, Government propose to give to various political

† Answer to this question laid on the Table, the questioner being absent.

parties to keep the Armed Forces informed of their policies and programme, so that when elections are held, the troops know how to exercise their votes?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) No, it is completely untrue.

(b) No special facilities will be provided to any political party, but as the troops have access to newspapers, etc., it may be assumed that they will have a good idea of what each party stands for.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Is it not the policy of the Government to keep the Army free from any political influence?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Yes.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Are there any papers which have been prohibited from being subscribed to by the messes and clubs in the Army?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I could not say off-band. I would require notice.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Has *Blitz* been prohibited?

Mr. Speaker: I think there was a question about that in the House.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Arising from the supplementaries, may I know if the Army people are authorised to read the election manifestoes of the various parties before they come to the polling booth for voting?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It does not arise out of this question.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: It arises out of the supplementaries.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Is there any paper edited by the Ministry of Defence for the general information and education of the Military Forces?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Yes, Sir. There is.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Have Government taken steps to ensure that publications from the "yellow Press" which gives out tendentious news are not circulated in the Army?

Mr. Speaker: It amounts to a suggestion.

STATUS OF JUDICIAL COMMISSIONER'S COURT (AJMER)

*891. **Pandit Mukut Bhardi Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Judicial Commissioner's Court in Ajmer has been the highest Court of Civil and Criminal jurisdiction for this area, like the High Courts in the provinces of India, and that since January, 1927 appeals from its judgements, decrees and orders lay to the Privy Council?

(b) Is it also a fact that the appellate jurisdiction of the Privy Council from this Court has since been abolished and now the appeal from the decrees and orders of this Court lies to the Federal Court?

(c) Is it also a fact that the Judicial Commissioner's Court is not included in the category of High Courts as defined in the Government of India Act, 1935 for the purposes of the appellate jurisdiction of the Federal Court?

(d) If so, what steps are being taken by Government to bring the Court of the Judicial Commissioner at par with other High Courts in this respect and if not, why not?

(e) Is it a fact that the advocates practising in the Court of the Judicial

Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, have been refused permission to be enrolled as Advocates of the Federal Court?

(f) Is any proposal under consideration for placing the advocates of the Judicial Commissioner's Court on the same footing as the advocates of other High Courts for the purpose of enrolment as advocates of the Federal Court?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) and (d). The Court of Judicial Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara is not a High Court within the meaning of the Government of India Act, 1935, but by virtue of the enactment of the Abolition of the Privy Council Jurisdiction Act, 1949, appeals from its decrees and orders lie to the Federal Court.

(e) Under the Rules of the Federal Court, as they stand at present, Advocates practising in the Court of the Judicial Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, are not eligible for enrolment as Advocates in the Federal Court, because the Rules have defined "High Court" as being a Court within the meaning of Section 219 of the Government of India Act, 1935.

(f) The question of the revision of the Rules is under consideration.

COPYRIGHT COMMITTEE

*892. **Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether the report of the "copyright" Committee has been published?

(b) If not, when is it expected to be published?

(c) Do Government propose to amend the Copyright Act?

(d) Will it be extended to States Unions and Merged States also and if so by what time?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) The Expert Committee appointed to work out the details of the proposed Central Reference Library with a Copyright Section attached to it has not yet completed its deliberations and no report has, so far, been received from it.

(b) No definite date can be given.

(c) The question of amending the Copyright Act will be considered on receipt of the report of the Expert Committee.

(d) Preliminary steps are already being taken to have the Indian Copyright Act, 1914 extended to the Unions of States, the State of Mysore and to merged States.

Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: May I know how many cases of infringement of copyrights have come to the notice of Government during this year?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I am afraid I have not got that information in my possession.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: What are the countries included in or excluded from the reciprocal copyright arrangements?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I have not got that information.

HISTORICAL MONUMENTS IN STATES

*893. **Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state if it is a fact that Rajasthan is rich in ancient and Historical Monuments, Archaeological sites and remains?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take these under their own control and preserve them?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of extending Archaeological survey to other States Unions and Merged States to protect the national wealth of India?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). A proposal to take over the ancient and historical monuments, archaeological sites and remains of national importance from the Unions of States including Rajasthan is under the consideration of the Government of India. The functions of the Central Archaeological Department have been extended to the Merged States also.

Shri Raj Bahadur: What amount has been set apart or earmarked for this purpose by the Government?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: How does it arise out of this question, Sir?

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether a list of these monuments has been prepared by the Government and will it be made available to the House?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: If the Honourable Member is keen about it, I would see that he gets a copy of it.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Is there a proposal before Government to take over the ancient libraries and manuscripts that are in the possession of these merged states?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: As I said, Government is considering this matter.

F. P. S. C. EXAMINATION FOR ASSISTANTS

*894. **Thakur Krishna Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the F.P.S.C. will hold an examination in April, 1950 to select candidates for confirmation in the grade of Assistants?

(b) Is it a fact that the graduates serving in the Central Secretariat and its attached offices have been permitted to take the said examination?

(c) Is it also a fact that graduates serving in the A.F.H.Q. have been debarred from appearing in the above mentioned examination?

(d) If so, what are the reasons for this differential treatment?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, provided they have put in one year's service as Assistant in offices participating in the Central Secretariat Service (Reorganisation and Reinforcement) Scheme.

(c) Yes, unless they had previously served as assistants for at least a year in the participating offices.

(d) Posts in the Air Force Head Quarters are not included in the Central Secretariat scheme. They get the benefit of a separate scheme applicable to Air Force Head Quarters.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: In view of the fact that the Government of India have reserved a certain quota for the Harijans in the services, will the Honourable Minister instruct the Federal Public Service Commission to fill up that quota?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is a suggestion for action.

NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO AJMER MUNICIPALITY

*895. **Shri Gokul Lal Asawa:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara has nominated three members on the Ajmer Municipal Committee from amongst the majority community;

(b) whether the said nominations from amongst the members of the majority community are not *ultra vires* of Ajmer-Merwara Municipalities Regulation, 1925 (VI of 1925) sub-section 2(ii) of Section 8 of the Regulation and of the powers conferred therefrom upon the Chief Commissioner; and

(c) whether this matter has been brought to the notice of Government and if so, what steps have been taken by the Government in the matter?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) The Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, has nominated three persons to the Ajmer Municipal Committee from among the displaced persons who came to Ajmer from Sind.

(b) No.

(c) Yes. Government have satisfied themselves that the action of the Chief Commissioner is legally in order.

Shri Gokul Lal Asawa: Under what section of the Ajmer-Merwara Municipal Regulations were these nominations made?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The life of the municipal committee was coming to an end and it has been extended up to the 31st of March. Therefore, the Chief Commissioner has a right to nominate. I do not know under what section of the Act it was done.

Shri Sita Ram S. Jajoo: May I know whether any political parties were consulted before these nominations?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: No, Sir.

Shri Dashbandhu Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that recently all the Members of the Delhi Municipal Committee have also been nominated and there is no elected municipality in Delhi now?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. That question need not be answered.

FAMINE CONDITIONS IN RAJASTHAN

*896. **Shri Gokul Lal Asawa:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there are scarcity conditions in some parts and famine conditions in other parts of Rajasthan?

(b) What is the extent of the areas in which (i) scarcity conditions, and (ii) famine conditions, prevail?

(c) What is the number of persons and cattle affected in these areas?

(d) What is the number of persons and cattle that have migrated to other places?

(e) What steps have been taken by the Government of India as well as the Rajasthan Government in the matter?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Only scarcity prevails in a major portion of Jodhpur and part of Udaipur Divisions.

(b) (i) 48,000 sq. miles.

(ii) Does not arise.

(c) The total population of the area affected is about 25 lakhs. The figure for cattle is not available.

(d) Approximately 10,000 persons and 20,000 cattle.

(e) Free fodder supply, cheap grain shops and relief works (road construction, tank excavations, etc.) to provide employment have been started throughout the affected area. Rs. 40 lakhs have been sanctioned so far for relief measures and more will be sanctioned if necessary.

Shri Gokul Lal Asawa: Is the Government aware that one Mr. Nandalal of Marwar is on hunger strike feeling aggrieved by the policy of the Rajasthan Government in the matter?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: That will spare some food for the famine area.

Shri Jainarayan Vyas: Is the Government aware that the fodder was supplied after the majority of cattle had migrated from Rajasthan?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Government is not aware of it.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: May I know the total quantity of cheap fodder imported into Rajasthan?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I have no figures with me.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has this region been declared a 'famine area'?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know whether Government is aware of the fact that in some parts of Rajasthan there is a surplus of fodder and also of food-grains which is not allowed to be transported to places which are affected by scarcity conditions?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No, Sir.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know whether any feeding arrangements have been made for invalids and children who cannot work on relief works?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Of course all arrangements have been made for invalids or destitutes.

FILMING OF *The River*

*897. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have accorded permission to a foreign producer to film a book called *The River* by Ruymer Godden; and

(b) is it a fact that the book gives a distorted picture of Indian life and culture?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the attention of the Minister of State been drawn to a report in the *Hindustan Times* recently to the effect that permission has been given by Government to a foreign producer to film this book *The River*?

Mr. Speaker: How does that question arise? The Honourable Minister has already answered part (a) of the question in the negative.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is the policy of the Government, Sir, in regard to foreign producers making films in India, about Indian life? Have they to obtain a permit, or can they come and do whatever they like?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: No permission is required.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is care taken at least to see that these foreign producers do not abuse our hospitality to the extent of making anti-Indian films in our country?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: That question has been referred to the Film Enquiry Committee and when they make their recommendations suitable action will be taken.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know whether it is a fact that Government have no authority under the law as it stands at present to give or refuse permission to a film before it is made?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: If it is shown here then the ordinary laws of censorship operate.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: My question relates to grant of, or refusal of, permission before a film is made.

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: There is no law to that effect at present.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the Minister of State aware whether Indian producers can go to a foreign country like England and produce films there without permission—is there any reciprocity?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: I have no information of laws in other countries.

FILMING OF *Kim* BY M.G.M.

†*898. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news item supplied by the film critic *The Nation*, Calcutta, in its issue dated the 22nd October 1949, to the effect that Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer has completed all arrangements for filming Rudyard Kipling's *Kim* in India;

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

- (b) whether the report is correct;
- (c) whether the shooting of the film has already begun; and
- (d) whether Government are aware that *Kim* the book on which the film is based is anti-Indian in parts?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Government have no information on the point beyond the reports in the Press.

(d) The script on which the film is based, it is understood is not anti-Indian.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED AREAS

*899. **Shri Krishna Chandra Sharma:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether recommendations of the Pay Commission have been implemented regarding the educational institutions in the Centrally Administered Areas?

(b) If so, what is the monthly pay of the Headmaster in Government High schools and Government aided High schools in these areas?

(c) What is the additional grant Government have made to the aided institutions (High schools)?

(d) What is the number of these institutions and the number of students studying therein?

(e) What is the number of Government aided colleges in these areas?

(f) What is the additional grant made to them and what is the number of students studying therein?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): (a) to (f). A statement giving the necessary information in respect of Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara and Coorg is placed on the Table of the House (See Appendix XXI, annexure No. 4.)

ATTACHED OFFICES UNDER THE MINISTRIES

†900. **Maulana Hadrat Mohani:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the names together with the dates of establishment of Attached Offices under the different Ministries created since 1st January, 1946 and what the total number of officers and ministerial establishment in each of these Attached Offices is?

(b) How is the status of an office decided by the Government and what are the conditions for determining whether an office is an Attached Office?

(c) Are there any offices whose status has not yet been decided?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (c). The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(b) The status of an office is determined on the basis of the nature of duties it performs and its relations to Government. While no hard and fast rule can

† Answer to this question laid on the Table, the questioner being absent

be or has been laid down, generally, offices which, though not directly responsible for the framing of policy, perform duties which are more akin to Secretariat than to executive work and have to maintain close collaboration with Government are recognised as Attached Offices.

QUALIFIED STENOGRAPHERS

†*901. **Maulana Hasrat Mohani:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the number of stenographers who were declared successful as a result of the examination conducted by the F.P.S.C. in May 1949?

(b) How many permanent vacancies of stenographers exist at present in the Secretariat and Attached Offices?

(c) In case the number of permanent vacancies is less than the number of successful stenographers, how is it proposed to absorb the remaining stenographers in the Secretariat and Attached Offices and how long will it take to do so?

(d) How will the seniority of a qualified stenographer be maintained?

(e) Will it be on the length of service in the grade or will a stenographer, who fails to qualify in the first test but qualifies at the second time at a higher rate of speed, rank above the one who qualifies at a lower rate in the first test?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) 511.

(b) About 210.

(c) Stenographers successful in the Test held in May, 1949, along with those who had already passed the proficiency Test and those successful in the next two Tests, will be absorbed not only in the existing permanent vacancies but also in such permanent vacancies as may arise as long as the lists are in force. The rest will have further opportunities to be confirmed in vacancies reserved for quasi-permanent employees provided they qualify for quasi-permanent appointment.

(d) and (e). Seniority of stenographers will be determined on the basis of their length of continuous service in the stenographers' grade and/or in an equivalent grade.

RETIREMENT BENEFIT TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

*902. **Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply to my Starred Question No. 1460 asked on the 29th March, 1949 and state whether the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission regarding the retirement benefit are still under consideration?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, how long will Government take to come to a decision?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes.

(b) Government are making every effort to arrive at a very early decision in the matter and it is hoped orders will be issued during the course of the next two months.

† Answer to this question laid on the Table, the questioner being absent.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR BACKWARD CLASSES AND SCHEDULED CASTES

*903. Dr. Raghunandan Prasad: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) The amount of scholarships sanctioned for the current year and the last three years (i) for the students of the scheduled castes, (ii) for the students of the scheduled tribes, and (iii) for the students of backward classes;

(b) the number of applications received from the students of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward classes during this period;

(c) the number of students of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward classes who received the above scholarships during this period;

(d) whether the amount of scholarship for the students of scheduled castes of India is sufficient for the number of students: and

(e) if the answer to part (d) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to increase the amount of scholarship according to the number of students? If not, why not?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs):

			Ra.
(a)	Scheduled Castes.	1946-47	= 4,70,397
		1947-48	= 5,39,307
		1948-49	= 4,06,331
		1949-50 (Current year)	= 6,00,000
Scheduled Tribes.	1946-47	= Nil.	
	1947-48	= Nil.	
	1948-49	= 45,986	
	1949-50 (Current year)	= 1,00,900	
Backward Classes.	1946-47	= Nil.	
	1947-48	= Nil.	
	1948-49	= Nil.	
	1949-50 (Current year)	= 3,00,000.	
(b)	Scheduled Castes.	1946-47	= 910
		1947-48	= 1,450
		1948-49	= 1,500
		1949-50 (Current year)	= 2,675
Scheduled Tribes.	1946-47	= Nil.	
	1947-48	= Nil.	
	1948-49	= 350	
	1949-50 (Current year)	= 405	
Backward Classes.	1946-47	= Nil.	
	1947-48	= Nil.	
	1948-49	= Nil.	
	1949-50 (Current year)	= 3,045	
(c)	Scheduled Castes.	1946-47	= 527
		1947-48	= 532
		1948-49	= 642
		1949-50 (Current year)	= 911
Scheduled Tribes.	1946-47	= Nil.	
	1947-48	= Nil.	
	1948-49	= 80	
	1949-50 (Current year)	= 201	
Backward Classes.	1946-47	= Nil.	
	1947-48	= Nil.	
	1948-49	= Nil.	
	1949-50 (Current year)	= 392	

(d) and (e). In view of the number of students deserving help the amount cannot be considered sufficient but taking into consideration the funds available, we have done the best that is possible and it is proposed to increase the grants during 1951-52 and subsequent years if funds permit.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know by how much the Government propose to increase the amount in subsequent years?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I cannot say.

Shri A. Karunakara Menon: Are these amounts distributed in one lump sum or in instalments?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: In instalments, I suppose.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: Is there any scheme to give the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes stipends for foreign education?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I have no information on that.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is there any quota fixed for each of the various provinces and States in India?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: No.

Shri Upendranath Barman: May I know whether a 20 per cent. cut has been applied in the stipends to the students this year?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: I do not know.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: Is it a fact that the scholarship awarded to the Scheduled Caste students in the Pusa Institute, Delhi, is insufficient for their maintenance, books, boarding and lodging?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: Might be.

LAND FOR EX-MILITARY MEN

*904. **Ch. Ranbir Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government are allotting lands to ex-military personnel in Tarai and Bhabar areas of Nainital district in U.P.?

(b) If so, what principles or conditions have been laid down for allotment of land to ex-military personnel under this scheme?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) The U.P. Government has a scheme for allotting land to ex-Service personnel in the Tarsi and Bhabar areas, under the Post-war Resettlement Scheme, after the land has been reclaimed.

(b) The U.P. Government will select settlers in consultation with the Defence authorities. The selection is governed by the following conditions: (i) That a selected person is an ex-serviceman or, if serving, about to be released, and has served in the 2nd World War up to August, 1945. (ii) That the selected person will settle on the land and cultivate it himself. (iii) That he does not already possess in his own name an economic holding.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: May I know whether invalided persons will be allotted land or not? That is to say, whether persons who retired prior to 1945 will also have land allotted or not?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: All those persons who have served in the World War II up to 1945 are entitled.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: My question was whether Government intends to allot land to those persons also who retired on invalid pension prior to 1945 but who served in World War II.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Those who served up to 1945 are entitled definitely, but I think the Honourable Member has got the cases of some persons in his mind who were invalided before 1945. I am not in a position to give any definite information on that point.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: Do Government propose to consider their cases?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I will have that looked up.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Are the ex-soldiers who served in the I.N.A. of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose eligible under this scheme?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Do Government propose to consider the eligibility of these ex-I.N.A. men under this scheme?

Mr. Speaker: That is a suggestion for action.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know whether the scheme for allotting land to ex-Servicemen is restricted to the U.P. or does it cover other provinces and States also?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: As far as I know from the information that I have in my file, it relates to the U.P. only.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Is any land to be allotted in Eastern Rajasthan?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid these questions will not arise. The question specifically refers to U.P. Therefore the Honourable Minister has got information about U.P. only.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: May I know whether all persons who remained prisoners of war up to 1945 will be entitled to have land allotted?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: All who come under the category of ex-Servicemen or Servicemen about to be released will be entitled.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I know whether there is any plan to allot land to ex-I.N.A. personnel?

Mr. Speaker: This is only putting the same question in a different form.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know what extent of land is allotted to the soldiers and whether it is an economic unit?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: No area has been specified but we do take into consideration that the land that is allotted is an economic holding.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: May I know the total acreage that is to be allotted to ex-soldiers?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The total area made available by the U.P. Government is 10,000 acres.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What are the reasons for the ineligibility of ex-I.N.A. men under this scheme?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

PERMISSION FOR TAKING OUT PROCESSION

1905. **Maulana Hasrat Mohani:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that permission was granted to the Socialist Party, Jama Masjid Unit, for taking out a procession on 29th November, 1949 protesting against the prevailing blackmarketing, corruption and bribery;

(b) if so, what led the Deputy Commissioner to refuse permission for the use of loud speakers during the procession to utter slogans; and

(c) why discrimination is made against other political parties when Congress Committees are given permission to use loud speakers for announcing Public Meetings?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) Permission was refused in accordance with the general policy not to allow the use of loud speakers during processions.

(c) In the absence of any specific instances, from the Honourable Member, I am not prepared to assume the existence of any discrimination.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ECONOMY COMMITTEE

38. **Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether the Report of the Economy Committee of the Government of India is out now?

(b) If not, how long will it take to be out?

(c) The expenditure incurred on the Economy Committee of the Government of India?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b). Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given on the Floor of the House on the 15th December, 1949, to Starred Question No. 622 by Shri R. K. Sidhva.

(c) Rs. 2,51,850.

RADIO STATION FOR CALICUT

39. **Shri P. Kunhraman:** Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state what steps are being taken to open a Broadcasting Station at Calicut before the end of the current financial year as already announced?

The Honourable Shri B. E. Diwakar: Efforts are being made to secure a suitable building so that the broadcasting station can go on the air during the current financial year.

'BASIC PLAN' AND ECONOMY COMMITTEE

40. **Shri P. Kunhraman:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sri N. G. Ayangar's report on "Basic Plan" for India Government Reorganisation has been considered by Government;

(b) if so, whether it has been approved in toto or with modifications;

(c) if it has been modified, what those modifications are;

+ Answer to this question laid on the Table, the questioner being absent.

(d) what is the number of (i) Secretaries, (ii) Joint Secretaries, (iii) Deputy Secretaries, (iv) Under Secretaries, and (v) Assistant Secretaries, in the Central Secretariat (1) as it exists at present (2) as per report of Economy Committee and (3) as per report of Sri N. G. Ayyangar's Basic Plan;

(e) what is the saving contemplated as compared with the existing system by (i) the adoption of Economy Committee's recommendations and (ii) the adoption of recommendation of Mr. Ayyangar's Basic Plans;

(f) whether Government propose to continue the present three categories of members of the Council of Ministers (Cabinet, State, and Deputy Ministers) with no change in their respective numbers, when India attains the status of a Republic on the 26th January, 1950; and

(g) if the answer to part (f) above be in the negative what are the changes contemplated?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) to (c). The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar has presented a report on the reorganisation of the machinery of Government. This report is at present under the consideration of Government and no decision has yet been taken.

(d) The numbers of Secretaries, Joint Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries and Under/Assistant Secretaries in Ministries and Departments other than Railways were 25, 41, 95 and 247 respectively on the 1st September, 1949. The Railway Ministry had 42 Officers of comparable status. The information regarding the Economy Committee's recommendations is contained in the report of the Committee which has been laid on the Table of the House. Since Shri Ayyangar's report is still under consideration, it will not be appropriate to give any details from that report.

(e) In view of the fact that Shri Ayyangar's report is still under consideration, it would be premature to make any comparisons.

(f) and (g). These are matters which arise out of Shri Ayyangar's report and a decision will be reached in that connection.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WHEREABOUTS OF NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to press reports and statements appearing from time to time suggesting that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is alive and that he might be staying somewhere in China;

(b) whether Government have any information or evidence in their possession about the reported whereabouts or death of Netaji which leads to any definite conclusion;

(c) whether Government made any enquiries subsequent to the 15th August, 1947 about the reported circumstances of Netaji's death and if so, whether these enquiries confirm that Netaji died as a result of the reported air crash at Taihoku; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in negative whether the Government of India propose to undertake further enquiries about the whereabouts of Netaji?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) All the information in the possession of the Government leads to the conclusion that Shri Subhas Bose is no longer alive but the Honourable Member is probably aware that his brother has different views on the subject.

(c) Inquiries have been made and point to the same conclusion referred to above.

(d) Does not arise.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Sardar Hukam Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that 'Jana Gana Mana' has been decided to be adopted as the National Anthem?

(b) If so, who has decided it?

(c) Was any reference made to the Constituent Assembly before its adoption?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) to (c). 'Jana Gana Mana' has been widely used in India and abroad by military bands and orchestras on official occasions as the National Anthem. This decision was made by Government till such time as the Constituent Assembly should give its final decision.

At the instance of the Honourable the President of the Constituent Assembly, a meeting of the Steering Committee was held last November, to consider the question of the National Anthem. At this meeting some others specially interested in this matter were also invited. It was decided that while this was not a matter for inclusion in the Constitution, it should be decided by a resolution of the Constituent Assembly, as in the case of the National Flag. It is intended to bring this matter up before the Constituent Assembly about the time it meets for the election of the President. Meanwhile a large number of experiments have been made and eminent composers consulted about the exact tune and score of the "Jana Gana Mana" which should be selected. All India Radio had invited many members of the Constituent Assembly as well as a number of officers of the Defence Services to listen to these various versions so that their advice and opinion may be taken in regard to it. Some members took advantage of this invitation.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maltra: I want to enquire of the Honourable the Prime Minister whether any steps were taken by the Government to try orchestration or scoring with regard to the song 'Bandemataram'?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: To some extent, yes. We received a number of such scores and they were played and listened to.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maltra: I want to enquire of the Honourable the Prime Minister whether at the instance of the Government of India any effort was made by the military orchestra of the Government of India to set this song to tune, or whether this 'Bandemataram' song was sent out to foreign countries for trial at orchestration?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: A number of military bands did play from the orchestration that has already been prepared for it, but most of our military officers and the bands said it was totally unsuitable for them. They could not easily play it. I am not quite sure whether any efforts were made in foreign countries. But I have an idea in foreign countries too, that in London, they did have some orchestration, and they also did not form a very favourable opinion of it from the orchestral point of view.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I would like to know if the Honourable the Prime Minister has appointed a committee of experts from among the musicians or from the Military Department, to go into the whole question of trying alternate tunes or orchestration for the song?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We appointed no committee. The All-India Radio has been doing this work on behalf of government.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: In addition to 'Jana Gana Mana' and 'Bandemataram', is there any other song which government has experimented on for adoption as the National Anthem?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: At this stage, government does not come into the picture, because the matter will have to be decided by the Constituent Assembly. As I said, the Honourable President of the Constituent Assembly held a small conference for this purpose, and the opinion of that conference was, more or less, on the lines suggested, that is, from the point of view of orchestration and playing on bands and orchestras, it was thought that 'Jana Gana Mana' was obviously suited, and has been a remarkable success in foreign countries as well as in India. From the point of view of a national song, all of them thought that 'Bandemataram' had a very peculiar and special position which should be maintained.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I wanted to know from the Honourable the Prime Minister if the Government has asked the musical experts of the All India Radio to try 'Bandemataram' at orchestration. I am told they are experimenting only on records. I wanted to know whether the Government of India have asked the All-India Radio's musical experts to try orchestration of the 'Bandemataram'.

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The Government of India have not asked them to do anything. They have left it to them to consider these matters, and they occasionally play this song. They have not got, so far as I know, a band at their disposal. They prepare scores and the military bands play them. Sometimes they play it on the radio.

Shri Jaspal Roy Kapoor: Were the musical experts who examined the 'Jana Gana Mana' were also asked to examine the 'Bandemataram'?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Well, it is difficult to answer, because some were consulted, but not those particular ones. Some foreign experts have been consulted and I have informed the House the general reaction from the orchestral point of view. 'Jana Gana Mana' was also referred to certain very eminent composers. Whatever song is selected has to be suitable from the point of view of tune to be played by bands and orchestras. At the same time, it should be good, that is, from the point of view of both eastern and western music. It must have the eastern element in it, and it must also have that part of the western element which enables it to be popularly played by bands and orchestras. To combine these two, we must have had some twenty variations of them. I don't know how many of the Honourable Members listened to it, when they were invited. The 'Bandemataram' was tried several times and these foreign experts thought there was not sufficient variation in it. I am not a musician and I cannot describe these things; but they say there is no sufficient variety in the tune to be effective in orchestration.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know if the Government have received any complaints with regard to the use of the names of portions of a foreign country in the body of the 'Jana Gana Mana' song?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The Honourable Member is referring to the wording of the song, presumably, not to the tune but to the wording.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Yes, that song contains the name of the soil of a foreign country.

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have not received any complaint, but I have heard talk about it. Some people have said that it should not be there. Others have vigorously said that it should remain there. The main thing for consideration is not the language but the general tune. The language can easily be varied after the general scheme of things has been approved of

Mr. Speaker: I do not propose to allow any further question.

Friday, 23rd December, 1949

THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

**PART II—PROCEEDINGS OTHER THAN QUESTIONS
AND ANSWERS)**

Official Report

Volume VII, 1949

(19th December to 24th December, 1949)

Sixth Session
of the
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)
1949



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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART II)—PROCEEDINGS OTHER THAN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Friday, 23rd December, 1949

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

11-55 A.M.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1949-50

Mr. Speaker: We will now proceed with the Demands for Supplementary Grants. After the demands are made, I shall have to make a few observations on the cut motions as I find there is some misunderstanding on the part of Members.

The Honourable Dr. Jagan Nath (Minister of Finance): Sir, last time when Supplementary Demands were made, you were kind enough to put the demands to the House, I do not think they were formally moved.

DEMAND No. 1—CUSTOMS

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 256,85,000 be granted to the Comptroller General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Customs'."

Now with reference to this motion and certain other cut motions in respect of the demands, I find that hon. Members have tabled some cut motions, in ignorance of the exact scope of discussion over these demands. I might just invite their attention to a previous ruling in this House, wherein I had stated that these are Supplementary Demands, and in case of the original demands, for whatever objects they were made, the principle as well as the policy of those demands had been discussed thoroughly by the House, at the time the budget was sanctioned in respect of those demands as also again at the time of the Finance Bill. Any further discussion over the whole demand, either in respect of the policy pursued or of the principles will be nothing but a repetition of the same debate over and over again. It is, therefore, that the scope of the discussion will be restricted only to such new things or new items as had not come up for discussion before the House when the Budget was voted upon. That is the principle on which the scope of discussion is restricted, and I need not then go into the example which I then gave. So, that will be the principle, but it appears coming to these motions now, in respect of this Demand No. 1, there are three motions, one by Shri Upendranath Barua, another by Shri Ramnath Goenka and the third by Shri Mahavir Tyagi. They all seem to be out of order because, the points placed there are as follows:—

[Mr. Speaker]

One proposes to discuss the failure of customs to detect under-valuing of export and over-valuing of imports and the loss of foreign exchange resulting therefrom. The other proposes to discuss the lower rate of customs duty on the export of jute textiles. The third proposes to discuss the loss of revenue sustained by Government over the low rate of export duty on tea.

A reference to the Demand will show that the additional sum is required for the payment (for the period from the 15th July, 1948 to 31st March, 1950) at Rs. 1.5 crores per annum) of compensation to the Government of Saurashtra Union under the terms of the agreement reached with them regarding the surrender to the Government of India by the Union of their Customs rights including administration, and for removal of the Virawgam Customs cordon, etc. So the Demand is to pay moneys which the Government of India have agreed to pay in pursuance of an agreement entered into. All these questions which are sought to be raised by the cut motions refer to something about the Department, their policy or the way in which the Department is getting on and all that. That is entirely irrelevant for the present purpose. I do not, therefore, propose to allow these cut motions. If hon. Members have to say anything specifically about these Demands, then the matter would stand differently.

Shri Upendranath Berman (Ward Beungal: General): As regards the ruling that you have just given, the cut motion which I have tabled refers to something which did not exist neither at the time when the original Budget was placed before the House; nor at the time when the Finance Bill was discussed. This is a new element that has come to light by the report of the Export Promotion Committee. There was no occasion for a discussion of the subject and this is the occasion on which we can discuss the matter. In view of that will it be open to the House to make it an exception?

Mr. Speaker: Unfortunately, the indication of the subjects sought to be discussed does not take that line of argument. If the amendment wants to discuss the desirability or otherwise, the propriety or otherwise of entering into an agreement with the Saurashtra Government, certainly the matter could have been discussed, but that is not the cut motion. The cut motion refers to certain details of administration of the entire department of the Government of India; that is the difficulty.

Shri Upendranath Berman: As regards the decision that was previously made by this House that general policies having been discussed at the time of the 12 Noon General Budget, it should not be discussed again at the time of the Supplementary Budget, I beg to submit that this is an exceptional case which was not under contemplation at the time when that decision was made.

Mr. Speaker: I quite see hon. Member's point. He wants to urge that this should be treated as a new item and Members should be permitted to discuss it. I have no quarrel with that position. I am merely referring to the cut motions which are out of order because they try to deal with the policy which is already discussed before. None of these cut motions say that they want to discuss, as I said, the propriety or otherwise of the agreement entered into with the Saurashtra Government. That question will be still open and when the demand is placed before the House, hon. Members may have their say on that aspect of the question, which is a different aspect altogether.

Shri Mahavir Tragi (C.P.: General): May I also just ask one question? In such cases where the rate of duty of custom has been fixed before the matter was discussed in the General Budget and during the course of the year if there

had been some re-shuffling of the rates of duty and on account of that Government has to suffer great losses in revenue, do you think it will not be a proper occasion to discuss those losses at the time of Supplementary Grants with regard to the same Department, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is perhaps missing the point or I am not clear. What I say is that the entire subject matter, as I said is in respect of the agreement with the Saurashtra Government. The hon. Member is raising a problematical case and I need not decide that problematical case just at the moment. If an occasion arises, I will consider and then decide. But the present position is that the entire demand is for payment, in pursuance of an agreement, to the Saurashtra Government and the discussion of rates and all that does not come in at all, because no money is asked for on the basis of a fall in the revenue or on account of a change in the rates of customs duty. That is the position.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao (Madras: General): With regard to Demand No. 97 where Rs. 79 crores.....

Mr. Speaker: I am not deciding them all. I am giving a general line about the scope of discussion, and as each demand is taken, I shall deal with the amendments with respect to each, because it is not that all motions are out of order. I have taken Demand No. 1 and I have pointed out that all these 3 cut motions in respect of Demand No. 1 are out of order for the reasons stated by me. When the other demands come, I shall take up the cut motions separately and deal with each of them on the merits of each. In the first instance, I merely thought it proper, in view of such motions to invite the attention of the House to the proper scope of discussion. That was the idea.

Shri B. K. Sidhva (C.P. and Berar: General): In the notes under Demand No. 1 it is stated that this amount refers to the payment to the Saurashtra Government on account of the terms of agreement reached with them regarding the surrender to the Government of India for the removal of the Viramgam Customs cordon. May I know, Sir, what was the amount that was realized by the State from this Customs cordon? I would like to know the amount for the last three years, if it is available and if not, at least for last year, so that we may know whether the amount that is contemplated to be paid to the Saurashtra Government is more or less or the same. I would like to be enlightened on that point, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. Finance Minister gives the facts about these things perhaps the House may better appreciate them as to why a certain sum of 1.5 crores was fixed per annum and on what consideration.

The Honourable Dr. John Mathai: It is the result of very prolonged and careful discussions between the Ministry of States and the Ministry of Finance, on the one hand, and the representatives of the Saurashtra Government, on the other. The precise amount that was fixed was to some extent determined by considerations of the revenue derived in this area but ultimately the question had to be settled on the basis of what would be a fair arrangement. My hon. friend Mr. Sidhva raised the question of what exactly was the revenue that the Government of India used to derive previously in these areas. What has been done now is that the whole of the Customs Administration in respect of the ports included in the Saurashtra area has been taken over by us. We have no figures regarding revenue collections in respect of customs in these ports. Precise figures are not available. In the end we had to make those arrangements on a basis of rough approximation of what would be a fair arrangement between two Governments.

Shri R. K. Sidhu: No information, even with the Kathiawar Government for those days, are available for the information of the House?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As a matter of fact there were no published returns in respect of all the ports included in the Saurashtra area on which any precise estimates could be based.

Shri Raj Bahadur (United State of Rajasthan): The same question arises when we come to discuss this demand. For instance, it has been stated in the note below this demand that the administration of Customs was taken over by the Government of India with effect from the 15th of July, 1948. May I respectfully ask the hon. Finance Minister why is it that, in spite of the fact that this was taken over on the 15th of July, 1948, this could not be envisaged when the Budget for the current year was taken into consideration.

Mr. Speaker: The reason is given there. The hon. Member is forgetting that whenever an administration is taken over all items in respect of it are included in the agreement. It is only because the position could not be settled then, that an agreement as to the amount was reached later and the present demand is made in respect of that agreement. That is how the position stands.

Shri Raj Bahadur: I would be interested in knowing what benefit has accrued to Government after the Government took over the administration of Customs from the Saurashtra Union as also, I would like to know how this excess of Rs. 100 over and above 1.3 crores has been spent under this demand.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: If the Honourable Member would read carefully, he would find that the annual compensation is 1.40 lakhs. The period covered is from 15th July, 1948 to 31st March, 1950.

Mr. Speaker: It is one year and 9½ months. So I put the demand to the House.

Mr. Hossain Imam (Bihar: Muslim): Is the Finance Minister able to tell us something about the further compensation which may have to be paid to other Indian States from whom customs income has been taken like Cochin Port?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I take it what the hon. Member wants to know is what is the amount of compensation that we are likely to pay to the other seceding States in respect of loss of customs revenue, either land customs or sea customs. That is a matter which is still under discussion. We have not finalised the arrangements between us and the States on the recommendations made by the Financial Integration Committee. That is still under discussion between us and the States.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C.P. and Berar: Genral): There was already a question put by my friend Shri Raj Bahadur which has not been replied to, viz., if it would be possible for the hon. Finance Minister to tell us what benefit we are likely to get from this agreement and if there was any likelihood of the Central Government making good in part at least of the amount that will be paid in some manner or other.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As a matter of fact, this compensation is a lump sum payment over this period but hereafter all the proceeds of customs revenue throughout Saurashtra would be collected and administered by the Central Government and my rough estimate is that we stand to gain by this arrangement.

Dr. P. S. Dasgupta: What would be the actual sum that is likely to be collected by way of customs by the Central Government?

The Honourable Dr. John Mathai: I would not like to commit myself to any figure but the rough actuals of revenue collected in the past by the states were in some years as high as Rs. 3 crores.

Mr. Speaker: I am putting the Demand to the House. The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,56,85,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Customs'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 2—CENTRAL EXCISE DUTIES

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 39,50,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Central Excise Duties'."

To this, there is a out motion by Mr. Samanta. I have some doubt about this. He refers to Customs cordon along the Indo-Pakistan line. What does he mean by 'inadequate funds'? Because the Demand for grant, as he will see, is 'Reimbursement to West Bengal Government'. So it is a payment to West Bengal Government on account of the cost of police force supplied by them in connection with the establishment of customs cordon along with the Indo-Pakistan land frontier. So the Customs cordon was not the administration of the Government of India.

Shri Satish Chandra Samanta (West Bengal: General): I mean the Eastern Border.

Mr. Speaker: I understand it but the payment, appears to be in respect of cost incurred by the West Bengal Government, and how does he say that the funds are inadequate?

Shri Satish Chandra Samanta: Because I feel that more police arrangements should be made.

Mr. Speaker: My point is that the Government of India are paying to the West Bengal Government whatever cost they incurred; and in it his intention that that cost should have been higher? If he wants to discuss the working of that cordon, the working was by the West Bengal Government on behalf of the Government of India. I am afraid that discussion about the unsatisfactory character of the maintenance of the cordon will not come within the scope of the present demand. Therefore I wanted to know as to what he means by 'inadequate funds'.

Shri Satish Chandra Samanta: I mean that.

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid I shall have to rule it out of order. I will now put the demand to the House.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know from the hon. Minister when this establishment of Customs cordon on the Indo-Pakistan Line was created and what benefit has accrued on account of customs revenue since then?

The Honourable Dr. John Mathai: We have been able to do quite a substantial amount of work in the way of preventing smuggling. The hon. Member will remember that various questions have been put to me during this session about the extent of smuggling along the land frontier. We are trying our best to prevent smuggling. It is very difficult to make an estimate of what

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revenue is obtained by preventing smuggling. I have given figures regarding the cases we have been able to trace.

Shri Raj Bahadur: When was this Customs cordon established?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I cannot give the exact date. It was about a year ago.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 39,50,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of "Central Excise Duties."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 11.—4 CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,16,50,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of "Constituent Assembly."

Shri R. K. Saha: Sir, I have only one question to put. Rs. 98,50,000 relates to Election for Legislatures, and the Explanation given in the Foot-note is "Payments to Provinces and States of 50 per cent. of the total extra cost incurred by them in the preparation of electoral rolls for the House of the People." I wish to know whether this refers to the electoral roll that the Provinces will prepare in relation to the House of the People only, or whether this will be a contribution to the Provinces for the electoral lists which they will prepare for their own respective Provinces. If it is the former, then of course, there is no objection. But I would like to know on what basis this Rs. 1 crore has been estimated for all the Provinces and as to how it is going to be distributed. If it is the latter I would like to ask as to why the Centre should bear the expenses of the Provinces for preparing their own Provincial electoral lists. Will only Rs. 1 crore be spent for all the Provinces? (*An Honourable Member:* It is a part payment.) I want to know the position from the hon. Minister.

Mr. Speaker: The note clearly says that it is 50 per cent. contribution.

Shri R. K. Saha: If it is 50 per cent. of the total expenditure it means that Rs. 2 crores will be spent in the preparation of the lists. May I know whether this Rs. 2 crores applies to the Provinces in connection with the preparation of the Provincial Electoral Rolls also or whether it relates only to the preparation of the Electoral Rolls for the House of the People. There will be two electoral rolls; one will be for the Provincial Legislatures and another for the Members to be returned to the House of the People, which list may be one or two. But generally there are two lists, one for the Central Legislature and one for the Provincial Legislature.

I wanted to know as to how the 50 per cent. that we give is going to be distributed between the various Provinces, whether Rs. 2 crores represents the total sum of expenditure for all the Provinces or whether the figure is likely to go beyond what has been calculated. I also wanted to know, if it relates to the expenditure in connection with the preparation of the Provincial electoral rolls, as to why the Centre should bear any expenditure on that account.

Shri H. V. Kamath: *same.*

Mr. Speaker: I think it will be better if the Finance Minister first gives an explanation. As regards the out motion which the hon. Member sought to move, he ought to know that under the parliamentary practice it is not permissible to have any motion of that type in respect of the House or the arrangements to be made by the House. He should get the explanation from the hon. President of the Constituent Assembly. Information can be given here. That is a different matter, and the hon. Finance Minister will give the information.

I might also further point out that he wanted to discuss the "allocation". There was some such word and the matter was not clear; it was vague enough and not clear at all as to what he meant by 'allocation'. Whatever that may be, he can get the information he wants.

Sri H. V. Kamath (C.P. and Perar: General): May I ask for the information now?

Mr. Speaker: Yes. But what procedure shall we follow? Will the Finance Minister hear what hon. Members have to ask and then give the information?

The Honourable Dr. John Mathai: Yes, Sir, what will be the most convenient way.

Mr. Speaker: They will hear hon. Members as to the information they want, and ultimately give the information in his statement.

Sri H. V. Kamath: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the present demand for supplementary grant is Rs. 1,16,30,000. The House is well aware that certain statements, partly irresponsible, were made outside the House to the effect that the Constituent Assembly had already overspent the budgeted grant—I do not remember how much it was—and that the expenditure had run into almost Rs. 2 crores. This was very ably refuted by Dr. Ambedkar in his speech on the final reading of the Constitution, and he dismissed such statements as irresponsible and showed that the Constituent Assembly, considering the work it had been assigned, did the work in a fairly reasonable period of time and that the expenditure incurred was not over much. Now, the information I ask for is this, because still there are very unpleasant reports circulating outside that the Constituent Assembly has cost the nation a good deal, and Members as a matter of fact are maligned in various ways.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member need not pass any remarks or discuss the matter in that manner. He may merely ask for information as to how the amount is made up.

Sri H. V. Kamath: May I ask for this information? Under this head, the expenditure under item A refers to the lump sum grant to the Constituent Assembly, and the explanation given in the foot-note is that the extra expenditure is due to (a) more sessions of the Constituent Assembly than anticipated, (b) the retention of the Constituent Assembly Secretariat for the whole of the year instead of for six months as originally anticipated, (c) the setting up of a conference of scholars representing major languages of India and the Expert Translation Committee in connection with the translation of the new Constitution in the major languages of the country, and (d) Calligraphy (writing) and artistic designing of the manuscript of the new Constitution. There are these four items expenditure in connection with which is covered under A, that is Rs. 17,20,000. It would be interesting to know, if the hon. Finance Minister is in a position to tell the House, how much of this Rs. 17 and odd lakhs will go towards meeting the expenses of the Members of the Constituent Assembly, that is to say (a) (i)—expenditure incurred in connection with the actual sessions of the Constituent Assembly, apart from the Secretariat, Calligraphy and the

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Experts' Conference. Then the people, as well as ourselves, will be in a position to know whether the Assembly sessions by themselves have cost the nation such a good deal as some people outside the House—and I do not know whether inside the House also—are inclined to believe. I would, therefore, welcome this information item by item,—how much under (a) (i), under (a) (ii), (b) (iii) and (a) (iv)—if not accurately, at least approximately.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, I would first like to point out that the limitations you have placed on the scope of discussion is probably fairly correct, and therefore, I do not wish to say anything against it. But if the whole Demand is put before the House, I hope you will allow speeches limited to the specific notes that have been supplied here. The scope should not merely be limited to questions and answers.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member will remember one further distinction so far as this Demand is concerned. This particular Demand relates to what has been done under the supervision or orders of the hon. President of the Constituent Assembly. Therefore, under parliamentary practice, any discussion of that type will not be open here, ought not to be open here. But, as the Demand is made, the only thing that can be done is that information as to details, so far as can be available with the Hon. the Finance Minister, will be given to Members. I do not propose to allow any further discussion or comments on this.

Shri M. Trumala Rao: There is no other forum where we can ventilate our views.

Mr. Speaker: The usual course followed is that the Members can see the hon. President of the Constituent Assembly and discuss with him and get from him such further information as they want. That is the practice so far as the Budget of this House also is concerned. No out motions can be moved.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, I did not intend to go into any details of the matter or to question the authority of the hon. President. I wanted to raise a general question with regard to the discussion of all these Demands. I want to know whether it would not be permissible for hon. Members of this House to make such remarks as they consider necessary on the particular subjects on which the expenditure was incurred. To that extent, would you not be pleased to permit speeches?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member refers to the other Demands generally?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: In a general way.

Mr. Speaker: Certainly. So far as information is concerned, he can ask for it. He can express his opinion because, as the Demand is made, he is entitled to have his say. But then, he is not entitled to discuss the policy. That will be the limitation.

Shri Ramnath Goenka (Madras: General): May I know if any calculations have been made of the expenditure incurred for the Constituent Assembly, on the basis of time taken by each of the Members?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. That is a different matter. We are not going into that now.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: So far as this Demand is concerned, in this very Demand we are going to provide for the future elections to Parliament as well as to the Provincial legislatures. I would like to know whether any provision has been made for the construction of housing accommodation for the future

Members of Parliament, and whether any provision has been made for a bill for the new Parliament. Are there any schemes drawn up so far as the housing of the Members of the new Parliament is concerned? I want to know when this question is likely to be considered by the Government. Sir, I ask this question because, as you are fully aware, at the present time none of the Members are happy with regard to the accommodation that is provided for them.

Mr. Speaker: I do not think I can permit that. The hon. Member is going beyond the scope of the Demand—all sorts of points cannot be raised.

Sri A. Thanu Pillai (United State of Travancore and Cochin): Sir, I wish to get some information regarding the entry under (h) of the notes—“Payments to Provinces and States of 5% per cent. of the total extra cost incurred by them in the preparation of electoral rolls for the House of the People.” I wish to know whether this “incurred by them” means the cost that has already been incurred by them, or the total cost that has been and will be incurred in the preparation of the rolls. I would also like to know whether the preparation of the rolls will be complete by the end of this financial year or will extend to the next year and whether the sum provided covers only the amount that will have to be contributed till the end of this financial year. Then the notes refer to “total extra cost”. I do not know what this extra cost means. Is it not, the cost incurred in connection with the preparation of the rolls. Has that word “extra” any significance?

In regard to the question of the House of the People, I know the preparation of the rolls for elections to that House will more or less be the same as for the local legislatures except for the division into separate groups for different constituencies. I do not think that the latter work will involve any substantial expenditure.

Mr. Speaker: That again, is arguing the matter.

Sri A. Thanu Pillai: I wish to know whether one-half of the total expenditure will be given in every case. Finally, I would like to know the basis on which this expenditure is calculated. There are States where the rolls have already been prepared; they have only to be brought up to date and made complete. Will one-half of the total cost incurred be paid to them? I may, for definite information, mention that in my own State the rolls have already been prepared—they have only to be brought up to date. Will the cost already incurred on such rolls also be taken into account?

Sri M. Tirumala Rao: Sir, I agree with my friend Mr. Kaumth that we require some enlightenment on the points raised with regard to the sub-clauses of (a). With regard to (h), I want to know whether the delimitation of constituencies also is included in this expenditure or whether Government will come forward with another item of expenditure for that purpose. With regard to (c) dealing with the amount required for the proposed setting up of the Election Commission, the matter is not clear. Does it cover the appointment of an Election Commissioner? Recently we read in the papers that Mr. B. N. Rau has been appointed as the Election Commissioner by the President of the Constituent Assembly. That gentleman is now occupying a place in the United States as the chief representative to the United Nations of the Government of India. The dates of the elections are not yet settled. The Constitution envisages the bringing into being of an Election Commission only when the holding of the elections is imminent. But this item here is expected to be spent before March, 1950, before the Budget session is over. Therefore, I want to know for what purpose this Rs. 60,000 is demanded and the urgency of it.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Sir, I want to know some details regarding the item (a) (iv). How much is going to be spent on calligraphy, on artistic designing and on parchment paper etc., for the preparation of the manuscript of the Constitution? It would be a matter of general public interest to know how much we are going to spend upon the historic document that is going to be completed by the 26th January.

Mr. Hossain Imam: Sir, may I ask a few questions on points of procedure? I take it that the Demand with regard to the Constituent Assembly is something in the nature of charged expenditure, and that we are not supposed to look a gift horse too much in the mouth. Nevertheless, I should like to know whether the expenses in connection with the Constituent Assembly are subject to audit or not, and whether, taking into account the fact that the potential number of voters in the whole of India is not likely to exceed twenty crores, the expenditure of one crore as half the cost means that a rupee will be spent for registration of ten names. On the face of it it appears to be a bit exaggerated. I quite appreciate that the decision of the President of the C.A. to defray half the cost is not only correct but eminently just. The Provinces are in bad way and to throw the whole responsibility of preparing the electoral rolls on them will have been too much.

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid the hon. Member is arguing the merits of the case.

Mr. Hossain Imam: I am not arguing. I say it is perfectly correct. Nevertheless, I want that there should be some checking at the time the allotment is being made to the provinces to see that the expenses charged to this account are correct, suitable and not excessive. This is all.

The Honourable Dr. Jyoti Bhatt: I must admit that I am at a disadvantage in replying to the various issues that have been raised in connection with the Constituent Assembly. The House must realise that the Constituent Assembly is a sovereign body and suggestions regarding expenditure on the Constituent Assembly are made to the Finance Ministry by no less an authority than the President of the Constituent Assembly. It is not my business as Finance Minister to scrutinise proposals that come from the President of the Constituent Assembly. These expenses that the House is called upon to vote are expenses which have been framed on the authority of the President of the Constituent Assembly. Of course, this expenditure would be subject to audit. But it would not be subject to the kind of scrutiny that the Finance Ministry exercise in respect of estimates coming from ordinary Departments of Government. I must leave the matter at that and I wish respectfully to decline to enter into a discussion as regards the various matters which have been raised, nor have I the detailed information regarding the analysis of this expenditure which hon. Members appear to want. I must say that I have proceeded on the authority of the President of the Constituent Assembly and that is final as far as I am concerned.

I think Mr. Sidhu raised a question whether this contribution that we are making to the provinces covers preparation of the electoral rolls for both the Centre and the Provinces. There is, of course, a good deal of common work, but on the best estimate that we can make we have provided for this amount as the extra expenditure likely to be incurred by the Provinces in respect of elections to the Central Legislature. Therefore, the word "extra" which is used here, to which an hon. Member referred, implies, that there is common work which has to be done but also a certain amount of extra work done by the Provinces in respect of the Central Legislature. It is on such estimates as we can make that this figure has been arrived at. There is likely to be further expenditure on the same account next year. That, Sir, is as far as I can go in regard to these matters.

Shri M. Thromala Rao: On a point of submission, the rights of this House have to be protected by you. The hon. Finance Minister says he has no right to go into any further detail about the items of expenditure which have been asked for by the President of the Constituent Assembly. But to understand the demand, we should at least have some information as to how this is arrived at. This House is the only forum for that purpose. We are asked to vote for a grant about which we are denied information. The Constituent Assembly is not sitting and it is going to close on the 24th January.

Mr. Speaker: I understand the hon. Member's argument and the importance of it also. But if the Finance Minister has not got the information, he cannot be compelled to give it.

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam (Minister of State for Transport and Railways): May I explain a point, Sir? According to the rules of the Constituent Assembly, the C.A. has set up a Standing Finance Committee which is to approve every item of expenditure so far as the Constituent Assembly is concerned. It is only when the Constituent Assembly's Finance Committee has passed it, the President forwards any item to this House.

Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru (U.P.: General): May I ask whether it would be contrary to parliamentary practice if the Finance Ministry were to scrutinise demands for expenditure received from the President of the Constituent Assembly or the Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: Well, I should be inclined to think that when the Speaker or the President of the Constituent Assembly sends his proposals, the Finance Ministry may look into them and discuss them, but ultimately in regard to the desirability or necessity of a particular item of expenditure the opinion of the Speaker or the President will prevail.

Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru: In the first instance, I take it that, according to what you have said, it is open to the Finance Ministry to scrutinise a demand and ask for further information, so that it may be able to lay before the President or the Speaker such considerations as appear to it to be relevant to the expenditure that is proposed.

Mr. Speaker: It is a matter of consultation, as I said. The matter cannot be taken beyond consultation.

Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru: May I ask the Finance Minister whether he consulted the President with regard to the details of this expenditure?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As far as proposals regarding this expenditure are concerned, I satisfied myself that this expenditure was reasonable expenditure and that it was sufficiently scrutinised by the inner machinery set up by the Constituent Assembly. Whatever might be the constitutional position of the Finance Ministry in this matter, I did not feel called upon to have further consultations.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I ask whether the proposals received from the President of the Constituent Assembly did not mention these figures item by item, 1, 2, 3—like that?

Mr. Speaker: Whatever it may be, the point is very clear now.

Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru: The Honourable the Finance Minister just now said that he had satisfied himself that the expenditure asked for was necessary. A minute ago he said he had got no information and that he had to satisfy himself about a demand made by the President. If he has, however, taken steps

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to satisfy himself that this expenditure was necessary, why is he refraining from giving the House the detailed information that it wants?

The Honorable Dr. John Mathai: I may inform my hon. friend, Pandit Kunzru that when proposals of this kind come before the Finance Ministry, there are various ways in which the Finance Minister can satisfy himself. He might do a certain amount of arithmetic on the proposals. In some cases, he might satisfy himself about the authority or the source from which these proposals come. He might satisfy himself on the ground of the scrutiny that has already been made by some competent authority in whose judgment he has confidence. It is in all these ways that the Finance Minister exercises his judgment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,16,30,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Constituent Assembly'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 15A.—DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 50,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Department of Parliamentary Affairs'."

No cut motions are going to be moved to this Demand, I am told.

Shri H. V. Kamath: It is a new Department.

Mr. Speaker: New or old is a different thing. I am first referring to the cut motions. Mr. Sidhya and Mr. Kamath, I take it, do not propose to move their cut motions.

Shri R. K. Sidhya: No, Sir. I do not propose to move my cut motion, but this is a new item.....

Mr. Speaker: I will be coming to that. First, I want to clear the ground. So Mr. Sidhya does not propose to move his cut motion. He wants to speak on it. I suppose that is also the position with regard to Mr. Kamath.

Organisation and mode of working of the Department of Parliamentary Affairs

Shri H. V. Kamath: No, Sir. I am moving my cut motion. I move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 50,000 in respect of 'Department of Parliamentary Affairs' be reduced by Rs. 10."

I have moved this cut motion with a view to raising a discussion on the organisation and mode of working of this Department.

[At this stage, Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Shri R. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao (one of the Panel of Chairmen).]

The Speaker's ruling given earlier referred to the discussion of policy with regard to demands which were passed in the Budget session; and he was good enough to observe that with regard to those demands no question of policy could be raised at this stage. But, Sir, as you will be pleased to observe, this is a new Department and in the last Budget Session there was no demand voted for this Department of Parliamentary Affairs. Therefore, I suppose,

the House is within its right to discuss the policy behind the creation of this Department of Parliamentary Affairs. The incumbent of this Ministry, before he was made Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, was described as a Minister of State for Law in some earlier pamphlets or brochures supplied to us by the Secretariat. I am speaking from memory and am open to correction, but that is my recollection.

But now, of course, he has been elevated to the Ministry of State for Parliamentary Affairs and I congratulate him on his elevation. His colleagues in this House were very happy and are still happy that he is in the enjoyment of this distinguished position of Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs. This is a new Department created with the advent of freedom and democracy in this country and after a free parliament started functioning. It is, therefore, in the fitness of things, that a Department of Parliamentary Affairs should have been constituted and was actually so constituted.

But, Sir, may I ask in all humility what exactly are the powers and functions and jurisdiction of this particular Department of Parliamentary Affairs? I yield to none in my desire to see that my esteemed friend Mr. Sinha enjoys as much power, as many rights, as any other Minister of State in the Cabinet enjoys. But we have been mostly in the dark as to what powers he and his Department have been invested with by the Prime Minister. The only occasions on which he participates in the proceedings of this House—as the House is well aware—are those rare occasions, which are unfortunately tending to become rather frequent nowadays, when Ministers are absent for some reason or other. He is then burdened with the duty, at the last moment, of answering questions on their behalf. If I may be permitted to use a common automobile parlance, we are sorry to see that he is only a 'stepney' Minister.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): On a point of order, Sir, we are discussing the expenditure of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs—we are not discussing any point about the Cabinet. My Honourable friend Mr. Kamath cannot, therefore, make any observations about the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs.

Shri H. V. Kamath: That is the very point which I raised at the beginning and I got your leave to make a statement on policy. This item was not in the demands voted at the last Budget session. My hon. friend Mr. B. Das is an experienced Parliamentarian himself, and as such, will not persist in his point of order.

Sir, as I was just saying we have been grieved to see that he has been functioning mostly as a stepney Minister. We would have very much liked to see that his position had been maintained in consonance with parliamentary traditions in other countries.

While we regret his functioning in this occasional capacity in our free Parliament, we have also felt that it was more or less adding insult to injury to him when he was saddled with the task of answering questions at the very last moment—just an hour or two before Parliament met. It would have been fair to him, and more so to the House, to see that these questions which he is called upon to answer at the last moment reach him at least twenty-four hours before, so that he may be prepared for supplementaries in the House. He himself, I am given to understand, is not very happy over this state of affairs, and I hope the Prime Minister will see his way to set right this state of affairs at the earliest possible moment. The House is getting worried over this matter—I am sure my hon. friend Mr. Sidhra will agree with me wholeheartedly—and we have been discussing for the last three or four months as to why the Minister should be saddled with this vicarious task in this fashion.

[Shri H. V. Kamath]

Now, Sir, coming to the other aspects of this matter, I would like to know what exactly is the relation between the Secretariat of the Assembly itself and the Secretariat of the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and whether there is any effective liaison between the Assembly Secretariat and the Minister's Secretariat, because I find that they deal with the same subject—parliamentary affairs. But the point at issue is this—what subjects or what matters there are at present which are dealt with both by the Assembly Secretariat and the Minister's Secretariat and what exactly is the point of demarcation of their powers and functions? Is the Minister of State competent to pass final orders on certain files or is that right reserved to the Assembly Secretariat, because the Speaker presides ultimately over the Assembly Secretariat? I want to know whether there is any liaison between these two. Because we are asked to vote a sum of Rs. 50,000 which comes to nearly Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 5,000 per month. I am sure the Minister's salary is not included in this demand and it is only a demand with respect to the Secretariat staff. I suppose the Department was constituted some time in May or June. I hope the hon. Finance Minister will be pleased to enlighten me on this point as to when the Department started functioning—may I have that information?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): In the month of May last.

Shri H. V. Kamath: So we are asked to vote Rs. 50,000 from May, 1949 to March, 1950, that is about ten months. I agree that it is not a very large sum, considering the work that my hon. friend is doing and has been saddled with time and again. But I believe the House will be glad to obtain information from him in this connection as to what exactly is the staff in his Secretariat—how many Secretaries he has got Joint, Deputy, Assistant, or Under Secretaries, I do not know; (*The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha:* None) and how many Private Secretaries and Personal Assistants there are and what work has been assigned to the various incumbents of these posts—these matters are very relevant.

I am sure, our Government bent as it is today upon economising expenditure in all Ministries, will see that no officer is appointed in any Ministry—I am not talking of this particular Ministry—who has not sufficient work for six or seven hours a day.

I do not know what hours of work are observed in his Secretariat. Whatever it is, whether it is six, seven or eight hours, I hope there is work enough for every officer to fill the six, seven or eight hours during the day. It would therefore be interesting to know what work is done by the various officers.

Mr. Tajamul Husain (Bihar: Muslim): On a point of information, I would like to ask my hon. friend, Mr. Kamath, whether he is aware that the Chief Whip of the British Government has the rank of a Minister and not only the rank of a Minister but the rank of a Cabinet Minister.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I am very much indebted indeed to my hon. friend, Mr. Tajamul Husain who is fresh from his experiences in London and other European countries. I am very grateful to him, for giving this very valuable information, but I happened to know something about it before he told me, through not in entirety. There are Chief Whips working as Ministers in the United Kingdom certainly; but I am not still aware—and I do not know whether my hon. friend, Mr. Tajamul Husain is aware—whether the Minister functions merely as a stop-gap or he is assigned certain definite functions and powers. I do not know whether Mr. Tajamul Husain has done any researches into this part of the matter; if not, I hope he will do so next time he goes to Western countries and will furnish full information to this House on the subject. I shall leave Mr. Tajamul Husain at that and proceed to the matter on hand.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): The hon. Member wants to increase the expenditure.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I was just coming to that.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: It is the cheapest Ministry possible.

Shri H. V. Kamath: We are glad that it is the cheapest Ministry, but we do not want the work also to be very cheap. We want the work to be efficient. Efficiency should not be sacrificed for the sake of economy. I do not know how many officers are employed and whether they have got enough work to do. This Circular No. 107 supplied to us by the Assembly Secretariat, shows the allotment of subjects for which every hon. Minister is responsible. The only exception to this is my hon. friend, the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs.

An Honourable Member: He is above question.

Shri H. V. Kamath: In accordance with this Circular, questions will not be permitted during Question Hour regarding the Ministry for Parliamentary Affairs. The only occasion therefore for discussing this matter is now, during motions of demands for grants. Otherwise, we would have addressed questions about this matter to the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, but that could not be done; I hope however some subjects will be allotted to him. My friend, hon. Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, who is smiling in his seat, was a Minister without portfolio once upon a time, but he had certain subjects assigned to him and those subjects were dealt with by him, and we did worry him with questions. I hope he was not too much worried by our questions.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar (Minister of Transport and Railways): Never.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Now, Sir, today Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar is the Minister for Transport and Railways but I find that he is allotted one subject which has nothing to do with transport and railways and that is this: questions relating to abducted women. I am reading from the Circular supplied to us by the Assembly Secretariat.

Mr. Chairman: I think the hon. Member is going beyond the scope of the present discussion. How long would he take?

Shri H. V. Kamath: I will finish in two minutes. What I was going to say was that under this Circular the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs has not been allocated any subjects, and therefore I would very much welcome a statement either by the Finance Minister or by the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs himself, whether he would be in the near future dealing with any definite subjects or whether he would dispose of any work *ad hoc* or files that are sent to him either by his own Secretariat or by the Assembly Secretariat. This is a very unsatisfactory state of affairs. We do not want this House does not want—any of our Ministers to be without any definite functions and powers allotted to them. We have got the highest regard for our representatives on the Treasury Benches and we want to know where they stand and where we stand.

Shrimati G. Durgabai (Madras: General): May I ask the hon. Member whether the subject of Parliamentary Affairs is not definite enough and shows the subjects which will be dealt with by the Minister?

Shri H. V. Kamath: If my hon. friend, Mrs. Durgabai, thinks that the subject is definite enough, I hope she will tell the House during the course of her remarks how definite it is and what exactly is the scope of it. I am glad that at least one Member of this House is very definite in her mind.

[Shri H. V. Kamath]

about the functions and powers of the hon. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs.

Mr. Chairman: Order, order.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Before I sit down, I would sum up. Firstly, we would like to know what the relations are between the Assembly Secretariat and the Secretariat of the hon. Minister; secondly, whether he is deemed to function only as a stop-gap.....

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member need not repeat those points.

Shri H. V. Kamath: And lastly, what is the strength of the staff that is employed in his Secretariat and what work and duties are allotted to the various members of his staff? Sir, I have done.

Mr. Chairman: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 50,000 in respect of 'Department of Parliamentary Affairs' be reduced by Rs. 10."

We will resume the discussion after Lunch. The House now stands adjourned till 2-30 p.m.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock. Mr. Speaker (the Honourable Mr. J. V. Mavalankar) is the Chair.

Shri B. K. Sridha: Sir, this Demand is an absolutely new one, and naturally so because this Department of Parliamentary Affairs was created after the Budget was passed. The amount provided for its establishment is Rs. 50,000. We do not know what exactly are the functions of this Department. At the head of this Department is the Chief Whip and the position of the Chief Whip has now been enhanced by making him a Minister. That is quite all right. We have no quarrel about that. But the point is, an office is going to be established under the Chief Whip for Parliamentary Affairs, and Members ought to know what are the functions of the various officers in this Department, and what is their connection with the Members. I tried to understand from the House of Commons Parliamentary Affairs Ministry what the functions of the Chief Whip are and there, it is said the Chief Whip's function is 'to make the House, to keep the House and to cheer the Minister'. These are his functions, Sir, defined in the book on Parliamentary Practices. These are not my own words, I am quoting from Jennings's book. What it is to make a House, what it is to keep a House and what cheering the Minister means, even these are elaborately defined. First of all in the morning, he has to see if there is a quorum in the House, and if there is no quorum, he has to get it, and then he has to inform the Speaker. And also whenever there is a motion he has to inform and explain it to the Members that such and such a motion has come, or is coming and the Members should act in such and such a manner. He has to guide them. Well, here, as far as attendance in the House is concerned, sometimes we do not find the Whip at all, and we do not find anybody else either, and the bell has to be rung. And as regards cheering the Ministry, I am not very much concerned, because if he cheers the Minister too much, he will be bringing pressure upon the Members. But that is not the material point I want to deal with. I do not know why large staff is wanted. Staff is to be appointed and that is an important point. The Minister's function I can understand but what for is this staff, we must know. I did not move my amendment because the hon. Minister assured me

that although the posts had been passed by the Standing Finance Committee he was good enough not to make the appointments, and if that is the case I must congratulate him.

The Honorable Shri Satyasrayan Saha: Not all the appointments.

Shri E. K. Saha: All right. What appointments have been made and what not, I do not know. I would, however, particularly request the hon. Minister to inform the House what are the functions of the officers in this Department. If they are only decorative, that is a different matter. But as they are connected with Parliament, we must have some knowledge. And here, Sir, let me tell you that I get more information from your Secretariat and your Assistant Secretary than from the office of Parliamentary Affairs. If I want any information I ring up your Assistant Secretary, and last night it was quarter past nine when I rang up your Assistant Secretary to know what is the business for to-day and he was in his office. I phoned the office for Parliamentary Affairs, nobody was there. Not only that, Sir, but during the session whenever I go to his room, to find out something, neither the Secretary is there nor his Assistant is there and I cannot get any information. Therefore, Sir, I want to know how half a lakh of rupees is going to be spent, what are the duties, what facilities will Members get from that office? That is a point which the hon. Minister must kindly enquire even though as a mere formality we may be passing this demand. (Shri B. L. Sondhi: No.) Then you explain this grant relates to this House particularly and I feel that as this relates particularly to this House, we must have knowledge of it before we vote this grant. I have also tried to understand from the Parliamentary Secretary that the Chief Whip has to meet in the morning the Prime Minister, fix up the agenda and inform you and inform the House also in advance. No sooner the House adjourns than for the next session, he must make immediate preparation so that for the following session much more in advance the Members should be informed what subjects are coming. From past experience we know when we come here the agenda is not before us and on one occasion we spent two days without doing any business. I would like to know what work is being looked after by him if it is the business of your office to supply all information to Members. If the parliamentary procedure which is adopted in the House of Commons is going to be established here, well and good. If that is going to be established, then it should be properly established and then the money would be well spent. But if it is merely for appointing a private secretary, a personal assistant, a stenographer or clerk for the sake of keeping dignity, for the sake of the dignity of the Minister, then it is not fair that the House should vote this grant of half a lakh of rupees. It may grow. I will not be surprised if it grows. In the sub-head under this Demand, it is stated that the pay of establishments is Rs. 11,000, allowances, honoraria etc. Rs. 11,000 and other charges Rs. 15,500. We do not know what the other charges of Rs. 15,500 represent. Have they to make any touring and to go to certain places to acquire knowledge? Electricity is there and the chaprannis may be in the Establishment. We must know what the other charges are. Mr. Sondhi may enlighten us as to what that amount represents. He has scrutinised this amount and it is his duty to tell us. My hon. friend Mr. Tajanul Hussain in the morning stated that from his experience when he was in England on the last occasion, the position of the Chief Whip in Great Britain is that of a Cabinet Minister. Well, I have no objection if he makes an application for getting the cabinet rank. I do not quarrel with his rank. What I am concerned more is the work of his office in relation to the Members. I am asked to pay half a lakh of rupees for this purpose and I must know what facilities should I get, and up to now, what facilities I have got I have narrated to the House. Therefore, Sir, would it be in fairness to pass this amount unless we get information on these matters and I submit respectfully

[Shri R. K. Sidbva]

to the hon. Minister that he may enlighten the House as to what is the object of having this big office that is sought to be created. Then I want to know whether this office functions during the year, that is to say, when the House is not in session. Naturally it ought to. Then I want to know what connections we Members should have with this office for getting or eliciting information. We should know that also so that we may not burden your office to that extent. The functions should be defined now as to for what purposes we must go to your office, and for what purposes we must go to the Department of Parliamentary Affairs and these matters should be cleared up. I am making this serious suggestion because I am handicapped. I will welcome this office provided I get all facilities. If facilities could be given such as in preparation of Bills or if the hon. Minister gives us many other privileges—there are so many other things in which he can assist us—then I can quite understand. I pleaded the other day that the rights and privileges enjoyed by the House of Commons should be allowed to us in this House and you, Sir, rightly stated that we have to refer to May's Parliamentary Practice. I told you that this matter was discussed in the Constituent Assembly and Dr. Ambedkar was not able to give us a satisfactory answer. Soon after I wrote to him a letter and he has not been able to give me the information. Should not that information be furnished by the Department of Parliamentary Affairs? Why should he not prepare this information for us and if he cannot, what are his functions? Taking your advice, I went to the Library and found that there were so many books on the rights and privileges of Members of Parliament and I found that it would be taking my time to find the particulars. It is for that office to prepare the information as to what are our rights and privileges which we may enjoy. These are some of the things and if they would be available to us, I have no objection to vote for his office but not for the Private Secretary or the Personal Assistant etc. These are my views regarding this matter which I honestly feel and if the office has come to stay, let it be a proper office, let it be a full-fledged office with all the functions known to the House and available to the House. Then, Sir, we cannot quarrel over this grant because it is only up to March 1950. I can only give this tip to the hon. Minister to let us have before the next Budget comes the full programme of this office so that we may whole-heartedly and cheerfully accept that proposal. With this object, I have moved my cut motion.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, the discussion which has taken place regarding this question falls generally into two categories. First of all, the question has been raised what precisely are the present duties and responsibilities of the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, and secondly, various suggestions have been made as to how these duties should be expanded in the future. As regards the first, what I would like to stress is that in the first place this office has been set up for the first time in our parliamentary history and until we have gained more experience of the way in which the parliamentary system works, it will not be possible for us to give any sort of precise definition to the duties that fall to a responsible functionary like the Chief Whip. Now the principal business of the Chief Whip not merely in this country but in other countries which have tried the parliamentary system, is to act as an instrument of co-ordination, of effecting liaison between the various sections which come into the parliamentary picture, between Ministers and the House, between individual Members and the House. Now these duties are duties which can only be performed at present on a basis which is fairly elastic, fairly flexible and cannot be defined in concrete terms. Any kind of responsible position which involves duties of this character of co-ordination and of establishing liaison, any office of that kind would be faced with duties which are very onerous but which at the same time would not lend themselves to precise and concrete definition. But I have not the slightest

doubt that as Parliamentary system develops in this country under the new Constitution, it would be possible for us to attempt a concrete definition of the duties that fall to the Chief Whip on the lines on which his duties for example, are laid down in Parliamentary Practice in the U. K.

I am in a position to speak from my own experience of the way in which my hon. colleague, the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs has handled his responsibilities in the matter of establishing a proper liaison between Ministers and this House and the thing that has surprised me is not that we have had to provide him with an office which costs—in Mr. Sidhva's picturesque language—so enormous a sum as Rs. 50,000. What surprises me is that the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs is able to meet the constant and persistent demands which we Ministers make upon him with so small a staff as this. I have had various occasions, during the short period that the Department of Parliamentary Affairs has been in existence, on which I have made demands on him to which the response has not merely been adequate but prompt and instantaneous and how he is able to do this with so limited a staff has been a constant source of surprise to me and my experience—I am in a position to say—is the experience of everyone of my colleagues.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man (East Punjab: Sikh): His parliamentary smiles alone are worth Rs. 50,000.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I entirely agree.

With regard to the suggestions which have been made regarding the future scope of the duties of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, I propose to convey to my leader, the Prime Minister, the suggestions which have been made in this House and I have not the slightest doubt that he will give the fullest consideration to these suggestions.

Coming to the question of finance, the organization of the office and the expenditure required for running this organization were determined on the basis of a Report which the Secretary of this House prepared as the result of an examination that he personally made in the United Kingdom regarding the organization of the Chief Whip's office and I can assure hon. Members that the organization that we have set up, considering the duties that even now fall to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, is a small organization and the expenditure that it involves is less than commensurate with the responsibilities and duties of the office. The Department of Parliamentary Affairs has taken over a very considerable section of the work which used to fall to the Law Ministry in this connection and I have no doubt, as the Parliamentary system develops in this country, far more duties would have to be assigned to him and I am personally satisfied that the provision we have made for that would be justified and entirely reasonable. If any criticism is to be made, the criticism should be that it is inadequate.

Various questions have been raised as to what exactly is the precise composition of the office. At present my hon. colleague has one Private Secretary, one personal assistant and a handful of clerks and assistants which is all that he has and considering the growth of office organization that other Ministers in the Government have, I have a feeling that my hon. colleague has not been treated fairly. As I think Mr. Sidhva pointed out, there are posts in his Department which we in the Finance Ministry have sanctioned but my hon. colleague has so far not filled them and I think it is entirely to his credit that in view of the economy campaign that we have now instituted, he should have taken into account the need for economising on the posts which have already been sanctioned.

[Dr. John Matthai]

I am sure, Sir, that these few observations that I made will convince the House not merely as regards the necessity and importance of this Office but as regards the reasonableness of the financial provision which has been made in this Supplementary Demand.

Sri E. K. Udaya: May I know whether the hon. Finance Minister stated that this Ministry is more or less linked with the Ministers in Office? Is it that this Minister has nothing to do with the Members of this House?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: What I said was this that the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs acts as an instrument of liaison between Ministers and this House and between individual Members and this House. But I was speaking from my own experience as a Minister—perhaps my friend Mr. Sidhva missed this point. May I say that the reason why he was not able to get a response last night when he phoned him up is that the staff is inadequate?

Mr. Speaker: There is a cut motion which I will first dispose of.

Sri H. V. Ksmath: As the Finance Minister said that this Department is of a tender age, I withdraw my cut motion.

Mr. Speaker: Has the hon. Member leave of the House withdraw his cut motion?

The cut motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 50,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Department of Parliamentary Affairs'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 19—MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

DEMAND NO. 23—MINISTRY OF WORKS, MINES AND POWER

Mr. Speaker: I find there are no cut motions to the next two Demands, Nos. 19 and 23. So I propose to take them together. Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,12,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Ministry of External Affairs'."

Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 84,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Ministry of Works, Mines and Power'."

Sri B. Das: I have a question on Demand No. 19—External Affairs. In regard to the increase in Post and Telegraph charges, I would like to know how much of this increase of Rs. 2,12,000 is due to the appreciation of dollar and if that is so, are all the expenditures due to postage to the dollar area?

Dr. P. S. Dasgupta: Before the hon. Minister replies, may I ask a question? Evidently this large amount is asked for under Demand No. 19 for postal and telegraphic charges. I would like to draw the hon. Minister's attention to a case which was reported in the Press. In the External Affairs Ministry I believe a certain book from America was required. That book would not have cost more than about 1½ dollars but when a cable was sent to obtain the book, the officer there wanted to know against what sub-head that could be debited and for that he sent a cablegram here which cost more than 4½ dollars. Is this increased postage due to such instances? If so, will the

Minister oblige us by looking into such cases and not to exceed the amounts in the future at any rate in the way it has been done now?

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: I also wish to ask a question. I had information that till lately the External Affairs Ministry was sending to its Envoys outside and Ambassadors-at-large news bulletins containing important news about India in cablegrams and it cost a good deal to the Ministry. That is the talk outside. I would like him to take note of this gossip and clarify that it is wrong. If it was so I would like to know whether the practice is still going on or whether it has been stopped. I would also like to know from the hon. Minister as to how this extravagant expenditure on sending news by cablegram is justified. Even the biggest countries perhaps would not afford to do that. My submission is that the very fact that the Ministry has come forward with the request for an extra grant on Posts and Telegraphs is significant and we are led to think that the expenses on telegrams and cables are rather more than what they should be in the ordinary course. I hope some more light will be thrown by the hon. Minister as to how the expenditure came to such a high figure.

8 P.M.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Sir, I have one query to make. On a reference to the original Demand it is apparent that a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs was granted under this head (A. 4) in the Budget Estimate for the year 1948-49. In the current year that is 1949-50, it was raised to Rs. 8 lakhs. When an increase of Rs. 3 lakhs has already been registered during the current year and an enhancement in expenditure was also provided for, it is surprising that more than 25 per cent. of the granted amount is again being asked for. May I know the reason why this was not foreseen and what has accounted for this inordinate increase in the charges on postage, telegrams and telephones?

Dr. B. V. Raskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): I may explain very briefly the situation with regard to posts and telegraphs in the External Affairs Department. First of all it has to be borne in mind that the telegraphic organisation of the External Affairs Ministry is the organ for the entire Government of India for its communication outside. It is one of the reasons why the telegraphic charges that are budgeted for this Department appear to be excessive when you compare it with the other Departments. Whatever the Government of India has to communicate to the outside world—not only the Ministry of External Affairs, but other Departments also—they do it through the organ of this Bureau which is in the External Affairs Ministry. That, as I said, is one of the main reasons why this is a very heavy expenditure.

I agree that this demand under Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones mainly relates to telegrams. Mr. Tyagi has raised a question with regard to summary of news being sent by telegraph. It is true to this extent that some time back the Publicity Section of the External Affairs Ministry used to send out a summary of Indian news by telegram to our Publicity Centres attached to our Missions outside. But later on it was found that this system was too costly and was not commensurate with the results. It has been stopped for some time now, and it no more exists. On the other hand, we have now instituted another system of wireless news which costs us much less and gives better results.

With regard to the increase of expenditure under this head, I would like hon. Members to bear two things in mind. First of all, one of the reasons for the increase is due to the fact that our whole structure in relation to our External Affairs is an expanding, one, and the more our centres increase the more does our communication with those centres and the outside world increase. This is one of the reasons why it could not be very accurately forecast whether during the year we would require so much money on telegraph, postage and

[Dr. B. V. Keekar]

other communications. I am sorry that the expenditure under this head has been greater than that budgeted for. A little of it of course is due to devaluation, though not much. One of the reasons also is this.

Shri Raj Bshadar: May I know the percentage of increase on account of devaluation?

Dr. B. V. Keekar: I am sorry I cannot say because devaluation has come very recently and it would not be possible to work out the percentage. No doubt there is a certain increase on account of devaluation. But I would like to draw attention to another point with regard to this expenditure. The increase is also due, as I said, to the increase of our Missions. Sometimes it happens that the work of the Government of India with regard to international conferences and others suddenly increases. The Government cannot foresee such things and this expenditure has to be incurred. I would not like to go into details, but there are certain urgent matters pending, for instance, before the United Nations and the Government of India has to carry on very heavy correspondence, at the same time urgent correspondence, by telegrams. And I am sure hon. Members are aware that international telegrams are a very costly business. But we cannot avoid it. I might, however, inform the House that many weeks back the External Affairs Ministry, and the Government of India also, have issued strict orders that telegrams shall be sent only for very urgent work which cannot be done by letters, and that is now being strictly followed. I am glad that in recent months—for instance, during this month and the month before—the charges on account of telegrams have reduced considerably.

Mr. Speaker: I will put both the demands. The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,12,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Ministry of External Affairs'."

The motion was adopted.

The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 84,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Ministry of Works, Mines and Power'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 82—AUDIT

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 29,76,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Audit'."

I find that there is a cut motion by Mr. Upendranath Barman.

Shri Upendranath Barman: I do not wish to move the cut motion, but I would like to ask one question of the hon. Member.

Sir, it is well known to the hon. Minister himself that the present audit staff is quite inadequate to supervise the expenditure of the expanded Departments of the Government of India. Moreover it is reported to us that there are certain Departments in which there is no audit at all. The only reason is that there is paucity of staff. What I would like to ask the hon. Minister is, in view of the importance of audit of our accounts, what positive and constructive steps he proposes to take, or has taken already, so that our Audit Department can work more efficiently.

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid the information asked for, if a reply is given, will go beyond the scope of the present Demand unless he wants to restrict it to the increase of staff due to the merger of States.

Shri Upendranath Barman: I do not object to the supplementary Demand that is made, but I would like to have that information.

Shri B. Das: Sir, may I say a few words on this Demand. I would like my hon. friend the Finance Minister to explain to me as to how much, out of this Rs. 29 lakhs that Audit is going to spend up to March 1950, will be spent for increasing the regular audit staff. Part of the staff has been augmented owing to the merging of the various States, other activities like multi-purpose projects, etc. But I would like to know, in view of the general low level of staff in the Audit Department, whether the Auditor-General has been sanctioned any additional staff to increase the general strength of audit for 1949-50, and whether it is under contemplation to strengthen it further, as required under the new Constitution, in the year 1950-51.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, I think it must be admitted that the expenditure for a part of the year, of such a large sum as Rs. 50 lakhs, is very considerable and I would like one or two points to be cleared. The merging of the States is mentioned as one of the reasons that have led to the need for additional staff. I would like to know whether all this staff is of a permanent nature or whether part of it is temporary, which could be dispensed with at the end of the current financial year or at some later date.

Secondly, while on the question of audit, I think I must take the opportunity of voicing the grievance of many people so far as the sanctioning and auditing of T. A. bills is concerned. I have known many people whose T. A. bills have been pending for months and months; those bills do not emerge out of the Finance Department. I hope a portion of the staff that is employed under this head will be transferred to attend to this work so that the payment of these T. A. bills may be expedited. I know a friend of mine who is a Government advocate doing the anti-corruption cases, who has always to borrow money because some of his T. A. bills are pending for 18 or 21 months. Sir, this has been my personal experience too. I do not know if this is the only item over which the Finance Department is supercilious and so very careful. That is at least my impression. Probably it is the only thing they bother about so much and are very serious about. They do not want to give a single pie to a Member in advance or in excess, although it can always be recovered. The only anxiety of the Finance Department seems to be to delay the payment of T. A. bills and obstruct them as far as possible. I hope this sort of a thing will not continue and that the hon. Minister will pay his personal attention to this grievance of many people who have really to borrow money because their T. A. bills do not come out of the Finance Department early enough.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Sir, my justification to intervene in the discussion on this Demand is that I find that on account of the merger of certain States some additional staff has been employed for the Audit Department. I heartily welcome this step and hope and trust that the additional staff, under the care and control of the Auditor-General himself, would go thoroughly with an examination and enquiry into the accounts of the merged States. I also hope that in course of time the accounts of the integrated States will also be looked into. We are very well aware of the reports that were current and were even published in certain newspapers, that before the merger or integration of these various States the Rulers and Princes of those States converted a great part of the public finances of their respective States into their personal property. Many of them went to the length of getting those moneys deposited in their personal accounts in the

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banks. So, there is a great anxiety that a thorough sifting into and a thorough auditing of the accounts of these States should be gone through. If it is found that any public funds have been converted into the personal property of the Rulers or Princes concerned, such amounts should be re-transferred to the public exchequer. As I have already stated, I also hope that in due course this step is adopted for those States also which have now integrated into Unions.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, I agree with the view generally expressed in the House that the Audit Department needs strengthening. I am well aware of that fact, and I have had several discussions with the Auditor-General recently as regards the extent to which the audit staff requires to be strengthened. The position is that although our expenditure has increased very greatly since pre-war times, there has not been anything like a corresponding increase in the provision that we have made for auditing the expenditure. The Auditor-General has brought this to my notice and I have generally accepted the correctness of the position that he has placed before me; we are in continual consultation with each other as regards the steps to be taken for remedying the present situation.

My hon. friend, Mr. Das, asked me whether the provision made in the Supplementary Demand covers any expenditure for strengthening the audit staff. It does.

The question was also raised as regards the position of the States. This Demand covers only the expenditure incurred in connection with the merged States, but from the 1st of April 1950 the bigger question of integrated States will also come under consideration from the point of view of audit.

My friend Dr. Deshmukh asked me whether the provision for the strengthening of the staff is a permanent or a temporary one. It is permanent. He raised also the question of travelling allowance bills. That, of course, does not come within the scope of the Auditor-General. If there is any delay in the passing of travelling allowance bills, it occurs in most cases in the treasuries for which the Auditor-General is not responsible. I am not aware of the details of this particular case, but in regard to a matter like travelling allowance bills, it is our experience that very careful scrutiny is required and, as the House will appreciate, the Treasury under any democratic system is bound to develop an extremely negative attitude which is entirely to the public good. But I am prepared to look into cases of this kind which are brought to my notice, so that no undue delay occurs.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 29,75,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Audit'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 86—**Ports and Pilotage**

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7,00,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Ports and Pilotage'."

Economy

Smt B. K. Sarda: Sir, I move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,00,000 in respect of 'Ports and Pilotage' be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000."

{The Honourable Sri K. C. Neogy.]

As regards the financial aspect of the matter, I may point out that the estimated requirements of the Director-General of Shipping for the current year was very much more, and it is because the Ministry of Finance had made a lump cut of Rs. 50,000 that we have come up for this additional amount. My hon. friend can trust the Finance Ministry to cut us absolutely to the bone in such matters and I maintain that there is no room for any further economy.

As regards the Pilot Officers, that is a matter which concerns my hon. colleague, the Minister of Transport and Railways.

In regard to the provision of two generators, they relate to the equipment of the training ship *Dufferin*, and they were found necessary for the purpose of the efficient running of that ship. The *Dufferin* itself is a very old ship and its equipment requires renewal now and again and these generators were found to be absolutely essential. That is all I have to say.

The Honourable Sri N. Gopalswami Ayyangar: May I explain the item about free passage for European Officers? Certain European officers of the Bengal Pilot Service were entitled to homeward passage, but before they could make their journey home, they were employed under the Calcutta Port Commissioners during the period of the leave they had earned. The termination of their engagement under the Calcutta Port Commissioners could not be foreseen and when that termination did take place, they had to go home after the commencement of the Budget year, and the expenditure on their homeward passage had to be incurred after the Budget was passed. That is why we have had to bring forward this supplementary demand.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7,00,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Ports and Pilotage'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 39.—TRIBAL AREAS

Mr. Speaker: We will take the next demand. Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,36,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of "Tribal Areas'."

There are no other motions. The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,36,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of "Tribal Areas'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 40.—EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 40,83,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of "External Affairs'."

I would like to know if Mr. Kamath wishes to move his own motion.

Sri H. V. Kamath: If it is in order, I would like to move it.

Mr. Speaker: Since he is here, I may say it is out of order. Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena is not here. Mr. Das.

Shri B. Das: Sir, I would like the hon. the Finance Minister and the Minister of External Affairs to clarify certain issues regarding the additional expenditure of Rs. 40 lakhs. We were told in the House that the External Affairs Ministry have reduced their external expenditure to the maximum capacity—that was given out in answer to questions. If that be so, how is it that they need Rs. 40 lakhs more?

Under Demand No. 40—External Affairs—they provided Rs. 80 lakhs in lump sum for establishment of the several new Embassies. Now they want more money under that sub-head. Devaluation of our currency, which was not anticipated, has brought about considerable hardship to the public. But it is now bringing additional hardship in the shape of additional remuneration or honoraria to the numerous members of the staff that the External Affairs Ministry employ abroad.

I know it is not a very pleasant topic for me to dilate upon. I don't know if the Financial advisers of the External Affairs Ministry scrutinise each item of expenditure of our Embassies and keep a check on them.

A part of this additional Demand, it is said, is to cover the additional expenditure in postage and telegrams. We know how our Embassies are extravagant, even to send cablegrams of speeches which were featured on the 'Independence Day' abroad.

I know that our stocks abroad, through the efforts of my hon. friend the Leader of the House, are very high now. But I don't know whether those who are controlling the destinies of our Embassies have got a sense of economy in regard to expenditure.

Well, if posts are reserved for the local people why do we employ stray Indians that wander about all over the world and then give them housing allowances? Why do you hire residential accommodation for India based staff appointed in lieu of local recruits? Why should the Indian tax-payer bear this additional burden?

Then there is an item "Provision of motor cars and their maintenance in accordance with the general principles approved for Embassies, Legations, etc." I would like to know from my hon. friend the Finance Minister as to whether there is any definite code of expenditure over motor cars in our Embassies—whether an economic condition of living is laid down, or whether it is the extravagance of the individual Ambassador or Minister abroad that determines the allowances. If at home we people are exercising the utmost economy in our domestic matters and in our national matters, I would like an assurance from the Minister of External Affairs that our Embassies abroad will exercise the utmost economy in their day to day affairs.

As a member of the Economy Committee I went through the affairs of the External Affairs Ministry. I was never satisfied that those Indians or non-Indians who represent us abroad have any idea of economy. They forget the fact that India is a poor country. They live in their external glory portending distress and disaster for our country.

Then there is an item "Revision of Foreign Allowances" under (g). Of course, we have very often heard from the hon. the Leader of the House that the cost of living in foreign countries is very high and that comparatively Indian embassies spend less. It is no doubt true that what they are spending is not a moiety compared to what U. K. and U. S. A. are spending. We do not want to rival U. K. in their foreign policy whereby they did subjugate and conquered half the world. We have no idea of conquest. Our Ambassadors are abroad to carry the banner of peace to the whole world. If that

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as so, why should our Embassies and Charge d'Affaires imitate foreigners in the matter of saloon cars and limousines.

I am a Member of the Public Accounts Committee where the hon. Dr. Matthai permitted us to go into the whole question of expenditure on Embassies. We found that neither the Auditor-General nor any high ranking Accounts Officer has ever visited any of these Embassies to audit their expenditure. Once a Minister or Ambassador, who has lived so long in this country, goes abroad he becomes an extravagant gentleman and feels that something must be done in the name and glory of India! I hope the spokesmen of the External Affairs Ministry who themselves follow the great leader of India—Mahatma Gandhi—in living a life of simplicity, will not imitate or approve what the Ambassadors of the U. K. or U. S. A. do.

If I require this information, it is in public interest and because my experience in the Economy Committee has left an impression on me that our representatives abroad are not economy-minded or national-minded.

Of course, we must obey our Leader: we must have Embassies. But the Embassies must function for our interest and not gloriously imitate the U. K. or U. S. A. Embassy. This information from the hon. the Finance Minister and Minister of External Affairs will enlighten our debates.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Sir, at the outset I have no desire to remind either the House or the Prime Minister of the constant advice that Mahatma Gandhi used to give that we should, as far as possible, cut our cost according to our cloth and spend upon our foreign establishments only as much as is absolutely necessary. I do not want to remind the Prime Minister of this, because he is the political heir of Mahatma Gandhi and he, I am sure, bears this constantly in mind. I would only say this, that certain items here call for a little more light than has been thrown on them.

Sir, I would first of all take (a) (i) "Revision of allowances owing to costliness of the stations abroad." I would like to know from the Deputy Minister, Dr. Keskar—I think this is not a grave enough matter for the Prime Minister to intervene, Dr. Keskar is well equipped to give us the necessary information—which stations abroad have become more costly during the recent months. I am not talking of the dollar difficulty, because that is covered by (a) (ii). But apart from devaluation difficulties, (a) (i) shows that there has been a revision of allowances owing to costliness of stations abroad. May I know from the Deputy Minister which particular stations have become costly as a consequence of which allowances of staff there have been revised. Secondly, Sir, throughout these notes, we find an item which runs thus: high cost or expenditure on postage and telegrams which was not anticipated, but the fact remains that there has been an inordinate expenditure on postage and telegrams. In these days of very speedy and very effective airmail, I think we can afford to cut down expenditure on telegrams. These days an airmail letter from London to India will reach within 36 hours and therefore unless it is absolutely urgent, absolutely immediate, that instructions or messages should be sent by telegram, it will be quite adequate if airmail letters are sent and instructions awaited. There have been instances where incidents took place without the Ambassador getting any instructions at all. Last year we were told that our Ambassador at Turkey left his headquarters and only after he reached London he got into touch with the Ministry here. I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this, that in some cases where instructions are immediately needed, they are not taken and in some instances where instructions are not needed immediately money is wasted on telegrams and this kind of thing must be avoided in future as far as possible.

Then, Sir, I come to item (d) (v) and item (g) (iv). They refer to supply of cars and their maintenance on the scale approved for Embassies, Legations, etc. Mr. Das has raised the question about such scales. That, I take it, will be answered by Dr. Keskar in the course of the debate. But I want to raise another matter in connection with this and that is this: (d) (v) refers to other Legations and Consulates and (g) (iv) refers to High Commissioners and Agents in Commonwealth Countries. Now, Sir, so far as I know—my knowledge is not perfect and my recollection is not very deep—but so far as I know, so far as Commonwealth countries are concerned, I do not think that we have opened any new offices or Missions or offices of Agents in those countries in recent months. They were all established some time ago, during the last two years, since 1947. As regards Legations and Consulates in other countries, we can understand they might have opened now Legations and Consulates. So far as the figures for other charges are concerned, the figures for the Commonwealth countries are far more than for the Legations and Consulates elsewhere, though the Agents and High Commissioners in the Commonwealth countries have been functioning during the last two years or eighteen months or more. I want to know why the figure for these offices of the Agents and High Commissioners in the Commonwealth countries in respect of other charges should be far more than the corresponding figure for the Legations and Consulates. If we survey (d) and (g), the items are more or less identical. I would like to know how many new Legations and Consulates have been opened so far as (d) is concerned, and again so far as the High Commissioners and Agents in Commonwealth countries are concerned, how many new cars—luxury cars, not ordinary cars—have been purchased. I do not think we should waste our money on luxury cars about which the Prime Minister told the House—I think the question was raised by Mr. Tyagi about a Cadillac car yesterday—that it was an old transaction and that recently there have been no transactions of that kind. But there have been rumours—idle gossip—going about that High Commissioners in some Commonwealth countries have got a fleet of seven or eight cars, some of them very expensive. I would not like to mention the names of those cars, the make of those cars, but rumour has it that there has been a lot of wastage on these cars. When ordinary Ford or English cars would do, they have been going in for luxury cars. So I would like Dr. Keskar to throw some light on this point as to how many cars have been provided for our High Commissioners and Agents in Commonwealth countries.

And the last point is this: (g) (iii) renting of offices and of residences for India based staff and provision of essential furniture authorised for purchase after the finalisation of the Budget Estimates for 1949-50. Now, Sir, when the Budget for 1949-50 was adopted and passed by this House, I suppose this must have been taken into consideration. Some amount must have been earmarked for the provision of essential furniture in the Budget for 1949-50, and the Finance Minister must have had at that time full proposals from the External Affairs Ministry. Though he might not like to tell the House—naturally he might not be willing to tell the House for various reasons—but he must have received at that time complete proposals on this item. I do not see the reason why this provision is again mentioned here specially in this item. If provision of furniture was authorised then and provided for, they ought to have been purchased and paid for. So, why should there be a supplementary grant now? I do not quite understand the mystery of this financial jugglery or financial parlance, but I would request the hon. Finance Minister to throw some light on this particular point. If this purchase of furniture was authorised previously on a particular scale, why should there be a supplementary grant now?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Rise in prices.

Shri H. V. Kamath: That is separate. Devaluation of the rupee is comprehensive and covers a multitude of—I shan't say sins; but it accounts for so many things, so many items of expenditure, which we might not be able to account for otherwise.

I would like to mention only one other point and that is this. And that is item B.3.—(Other Legations and Consulates, and it is for "Additional staff sanctioned after the preparation of the budget estimates for 1949-50". Does this mean additional staff in the case of legations now opened, or is it for staff for the old legations which were in existence at the time the budget was prepared? If they relate to the latter, then I must say Government was acting without much foresight. For the legations which were functioning at that time, if Government had no idea what staff would be required, I must say Government would do well to act with greater foresight in future. If this relates to new legations and consulates, then I have nothing to say on this point.

And then as regards the last item (g)—"Provision for *exgratia* payment to African nationals who had made deposits in the Indian managed Exchange Bank of India and Africa, Nairobi, now under liquidation." I would not like to dwell at any length on this affair of the Exchange Bank of India and Africa; the hon. Finance Minister must be well posted with the old mess and new developments in this connection. But I would like to know how far this Bank has been able to pay the investors, what percentage of their investment could the bank pay before liquidation, and how much Government is required to pay as *exgratia* payment to African nationals. This episode occurred early this year.

Shri Prabhu Dayal Humsingka (West Bengal: General): But what is Government's responsibility in this matter?

Shri H. V. Kamath: And I would like to know in what way Government is responsible for this *exgratia* payment to the African nationals who had made deposits. It is not a Government-managed Bank. It is a private Bank. Why should Government be held responsible for its failure? Why should Government hold itself responsible for the failure of a private Bank? Why this sort of *exgratia* which means by grace or compassionate payment? Why not leave them to the grace of God which is much better than grace on the part of Government. The failure of the Bank might be an act of God and Government could not have prevented it, and it is best to leave these African nationals in this matter, to God's grace.

I would like the hon. the Finance Minister or the Deputy Minister Dr. Kankar to answer these points in the course of their reply to the Debate.

Shri B. K. Sishva: Sir, I also wanted to raise the same point just now raised by Mr. Kamath, I mean this *exgratia* payment, and I want to have some more information about it. This Bank has gone into liquidation, and I put a question, but you, Sir, prevented me from putting supplementaries because High Court had taken control of the Bank. Now, our own nationals have invested their money in this Bank, to the extent of some Rs. 2½ crores, mostly persons with poor means and their money has all been locked up. What is the responsibility of our government to pay *exgratia* to these African nationals? At whose cost is this paid? Is it at the cost of the shareholders and the depositors of the bank? If the payment is made from the Bank's money I would like to know, because the public and the Indian depositors are affected. And if the Government pays it from their treasury, then also I want to know, because that is the tax-payer's money. Our people also had deposited their money into this Bank because of the high rate of interest. They did not know how to choose their bank, and these poor people left their savings in this Bank tempted by the higher rates of interest offered by it. But now they have lost

all their earnings. They do not get any money. I do not know what will be the result of the High Court's findings. If the Government is going to the rescue of the African nationals, what about our own nationals? Are they going to pay it from the Bank's money or from their own funds? Of course, the latter they cannot, because other Banks also will take advantage of it. But it passes my comprehension why Government should make this payment. I want an elaborate explanation from the hon. Minister because it affects our nationals also, they have deposited Rs. 2½ crores and if nothing is done for them, why should Government spend anything on other nationals with whom we have no concern?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Sir, my purpose in intervening in this debate is to refer again to the figures of Grants already sanctioned in the Budget and to the demands now made under these various items. Let us take the figures under head "A—Embassies and Missions Abroad". Under this head the original sanctioned Grant for the year 1948-49 was Rs. 6,71,900; it was then raised to Rs. 12,89,000 and now we are confronted with this supplementary demand of Rs. 16,42,000. Already there was an increase in the Grant under this head of some 60 per cent. over the Grant for 1948-49 and over and above that we are now asked to sanction a further increase of some 40 per cent. over the initial demand. That is surprising. These figures tell their own story, but I only want to say that my reaction to that story is neither happy nor encouraging. If there had been no Supplementary Demand under other heads that would have been a matter of some consolation. But every item I find has registered an increase, ranging from 20 per cent. to even 90 per cent. Take another case, namely, that of the item under head No. "B. 3—Other Legations and Consulates". Under the sub-head 'Pay of Establishment', the original sanctioned grant for 1948-49 was Rs. 1,89,200 and it was raised in the sanctioned Budget for the current year to Rs. 5,12,800 which means an increase of 250 per cent. and now we are again asked to grant a Supplementary Demand of Rs. 3,05,000 which means it is again an increase of about 60 per cent. The next item is "Allowances, Honoraria, etc." I do not know where and how these amounts are spent as allowances and honoraria. The amount under this head also was raised from Rs. 3,39,700 in 1948-49 to Rs. 10,21,800 for 1949-50—a three-fold increase—and now the demand is for Rs. 3,43,000. The demand under the head "Other Charges" has increased from Rs. 5,68,200 in 1948-49 to Rs. 10,01,800 for 1949-50 and now it is Rs. 7,88,000. So also item under "D—Entertainment Charges." Rs. 1,09,500 was the sanctioned Grant for the current year and now another Rs. 50,000 which comes to half as much as the Grant itself is being demanded. Under the head "High Commissioners and Agents in Commonwealth Countries" and sub-head "Other Charges", initial sanctioned Grant was Rs. 14,44,100 and over and above that a sum of Rs. 8,80,000 is now demanded as Supplementary Grant. This is how under this Demand under External Affairs the grand total of Rs. 2,59,40,000 is arrived at.

I may say here that the causes assigned for these increases fall mainly under six categories: (i) costliness of stations, (ii) devaluation, (iii) foreign allowances, (iv) postage, (v) rental of residences and (vi) this *regalia* payment to the African nationals. May I submit that so far as the question of devaluation is concerned, I should have been grateful to the Deputy Minister of External Affairs, if he had given us the percentage of increase in expenditure on account of devaluation. As regards the costliness of stations abroad, Mr. Kamath made very relevant observations and it was stated by him that costliness of stations abroad was not envisaged at the time of the presentation of the Budget for the current year. So far as high rental of residences is concerned, it is a long standing grievance with us. With costly residences which the nation cannot afford does India hope to get a big position in the foreign countries?

[Shri Raj Bahadur]

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao (one of the Panel of Chairmen).]

I learn on good authority that whereas in the case of other embassies of other countries the ministerial staff is housed in much lesser and modest buildings and accommodations, our embassies and consulates are housed in palatial residences. We see, here, the Chilean Embassy is housed only in a double suite in the Constitution House. I cannot understand why the palatial residences are necessary for us when the country is suffering from such an economic malaise and ills. (*Interruption*). As a matter of fact you cannot deny that we are faced with an economic crisis, that we are faced with a very acute stringency. It is, therefore, not up to us to spend large sums of public money over such residences and palatial buildings.

The new Dominion of Pakistan, wherever it has got embassies and its staff, they house two or three or four or five persons in one suite or in two or three suites.

Shri Prabhu Dayal Himatsingha: Either you do not have it or have it properly.

Shri Raj Bahadur: My hon. friend says either you have food or starve. That is not a sound principle. I should refer to him that in times of emergency we have got to be prepared to put up with shortage and certain austerities. May I refer to the healthy principle which was enunciated by Churchill in a time of crisis for his country. When his nation was faced with acute cloth shortage, he said: "Look shabby and be proud". We have imitated so many of western customs and English manners. Why should we not at least imitate and copy them in this matter also? It is up to the Deputy Minister of External Affairs therefore to explain how all this increase from 20 per cent. to 80 per cent. has been registered under all the items without any exception.

Shri M. Primala Rao: Sir, it has been our complaint generally that in every Budget or Bill for expenditure the miscellaneous items or contingencies or other items become the biggest items of the total Demand. Here out of a Demand of Rs. 40 lakhs the other charges come to Rs. 16 lakhs. We have mentioned here that pay of establishments are covered and then allowances and honoraria are covered and details of subsidies and entertainment charges are also given. This 'other charges' is an elusive item which consumes a good deal of amount from the Budget. I should like to be enlightened on that fully in spite of the very elaborate items that have been given here. Sir, I cannot understand why the item devaluation of the rupee figures four times in these items. I want to know to what particular item of expenditure this devaluation of the rupee applies. The devaluation of the rupee is in (a) (ii), then in (c) (i) and again in (d) (i) and in (g) (i). I want to know something with regard to the provision of foreign allowance for India based staff appointed in lieu of local recruits. This provision figures three times in the note. Does this mean that the reference is made to the High Commissioner concerned? With regard to the last item, I want to know whether Government have given any guarantee to this Bank that its deposit interests will be safeguarded. Is it on a basis of a reciprocal agreement with the African Government or is it a matter of prestige that for any dishonesty that is committed by our nationals we should cover them from any financial losses involved in such a conduct? These are the points which I want to be cleared.

Shri Prabhu Dayal Himatsingha: In spite of the increased expenditure, it is a fact that some responsible Bank manager who travelled in the East has

reported that some of the embassies and High Commissioners' offices in the East look more like third-class waiting rooms than embassies?

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Who has said so?

Shri Prabhu Dayal Himatsingka: A manager of a big Bank went to the East and he has reported to Government confidentially that some of these embassies look like third-class waiting rooms.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: In that case, there will be no extra payment needed.

Dr. B. V. Keshkar: Sir, I am glad that the Ministry of External Affairs has drawn the greatest amount of attention or interest which only shows that they are so much interested in our external relations. There are many points on which criticism has been levelled, but I find, Sir, that to a great extent the arguments and points that were put forward in the Budget debate have been repeated, and I do not want to go into the same details again, but I would like at the outset to say a few words with regard to the general question of why the Budget of the External Affairs Ministry has increased in spite of the amount which was probably considered then to be necessary for the coming year's estimate. My hon. friend, Shri B. Das raised the question why after making a saving of Rs. 27 lakhs the Ministry has to ask for a greater demand of about Rs. 40 lakhs. The question is a very simple one. I do not know whether hon. Members remember that in presenting Demands for this year, during the Budget debate, the Minister of External Affairs had drawn attention to the fact that this is an expanding Department, that we cannot guarantee what exactly will be the Missions that we will appoint abroad, whether the work of those Missions will expand or will be a very small one, these are matters which will depend on our relations with that particular country, whether those relations will increase commercially or otherwise and therefore, it would not be possible to give any guarantee. We could only give an approximate estimate of what we thought would be our expenditure on the different Missions. Unfortunately due to developments of the situation we have had to appoint many more Missions and Centres than we thought we would have to. This is one of the main reasons for the increase in the expenditure and without the saving of Rs. 27 lakhs, the expenditure would have been much greater. That is my reply to the point raised by my hon. friend Mr. Das.

My hon. friend, Mr. Raj Bahadur has raised again the same question which was raised during the Budget debate with regard to our having a more economical External Affairs Ministry and more economical Missions. He has also drawn attention to the fact that some of the Missions are living in hotels and he asked: "Why are our missions living in hotels?" Probably he is not aware that the Missions which are living in hotels here are so angry with the Government of India that they protest practically every week that they are being forced to live in hotels here, while they are ready to pay whatever sum is demanded for any big house that we can put at their disposal. Unfortunately, we are not able to give them and that is one of the reasons why they are rather annoyed with the Government of India. It is not that they are putting up in hotels because they like it. I do not know whether my hon. friend is aware that staying in a hotel is not the economical way. If you put the whole staff of an embassy or your men in a hotel it costs ultimately much more than when you have your own establishment.

My hon. friend Mr. Kamath has raised many questions. He has asked a question as to which stations are most costly. The increased expenditure is mostly due not to increased expenditure in particular stations or Missions but is due to two or three main items. Firstly, it is due to devaluation. With regard to devaluation I would like to draw the attention of hon. Members to the fact that only countries which are in hard currency areas are affected by

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this question at least as far as the External Affairs Ministry is concerned because our Officers who were in countries which are in hard currency areas will suddenly have to face deficit of 40 per cent. of their income and it is not possible for them to carry on in that way. Government has been forced to give them a kind of compensation and for our establishment, rent etc.....

Shri H. V. Kamath: Why should this item of devaluation of the rupee find a place even in the Commonwealth Countries--in Sterling area?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Canada is a hard currency area. There are other countries also. It only applies to hard currency areas and not to others. The second item is, in many places we have been able to secure residences for our staff and that means making a payment for those houses. That is a non-recurring expenditure but for which you have to pay. These are the two main items of expenditure and I don't think there is any particular Mission which has been so costly that they have greatly exceeded the limits we have set out in the Budget Estimates.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Am I to take it that the allowance increase is due to only devaluation?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: There might be new allowances. Allowances are not increased only on account of devaluation. New staff will have new allowances. I don't know whether he is aware that the India based staff gets special allowance.

Shri H. V. Kamath: A-1 and A-2, how do they go together?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: There was a question as to how many cars we keep. I am sorry I don't have the car-scale here. I am sure he will agree with me that it is cheaper to have our own car than to hire cars for our Mission, which ultimately will come practically to the price of the car and it is much cheaper for us.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Don't buy luxury cars.

Dr. B. V. Keskar: I don't think luxury cars are allowed for our Missions.

Shri B. Das: You allowed a Rolls Royce car last year!

Dr. B. V. Keskar: I think there has been sufficient discussion about it during the last 18 months.

Then there was some reference to telegrams. I think I had explained it earlier. I would like to say only one thing regarding the increased price of telegrams. It is not possible to foresee international emergencies. The Government of India had to bear the cost of telegrams for our own and many other international conferences and emergencies which though they might not pay us in money, do bear fruit in other things which are profitable to our country and it is not possible for us to foresee such emergencies but generally, as I have said earlier, strict orders have been issued, exactly as my hon. friend Mr. Kamath has said, and these orders are being adhered to. I don't know on what basis my hon. friend says that there is greater expenditure on Commonwealth countries and not on others. If he takes the whole thing, he will find it is not Commonwealth countries who specially spend more.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Only other charges.

Dr. B. V. Keskar: With regard to furniture, I would like to draw the attention of hon. Members to one thing. The expenditure on furniture is not only an increased furniture e.g., members of the staff who have been forced to stay

in hotels for a long time, when they are given houses, you have to give them furniture and that is one of the reasons for the increased expenditure on furniture.

Sri H. V. Kamath: Was it authorized furniture?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: It is authorized furniture. It is only the scale that is authorized not the price of the furniture.

Sri H. V. Kamath: Provision is authorised in (g) (iii).

Dr. B. V. Keskar: A certain amount was budgeted for furniture. That amount is exceeded and therefore it has been asked for.

With regard to additional staff, I might say that the staff has not been increased. In fact wherever possible with due regard to efficiency, staff has been decreased. Wherever possible we have withdrawn even important officers so that expenditure might decrease. Wherever additional staff is indicated here, it is due to new Missions that have been opened. I would draw attention to the debate on the Budget when Government had indicated that though they would try to open as few Missions as possible, there are occasions when it is not possible to avoid the opening of Missions. I might indicate the example of our new Mission to Indonesia. It would not have been, in any circumstances, possible for us to refuse to open a Mission in Indonesia? Such unavoidable circumstances come and we have to open Missions and the additional staff is meant for new Missions.

Regarding the question of East African Bank the hon. the Finance Minister will give full details about it.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I would like to offer a word of explanation regarding this question of payment in connection with the Exchange Bank of India and Africa. I think it was my hon. friend Mr. Kamath who said that the Government of India instead of exercising its own grace, might have left it to the grace of God. Sir, I cannot speak with the same degree of intimacy about the Almighty as my hon. friend has got into the habit of doing in this House. What I want to do is to state the bare facts. It happens that a considerable number of African Nationals in East Africa, where has been a branch of this Bank, were put to serious loss and hardship on account of the failure of the Bank. The result of that was that the relations between Indians and Africans in East Africa had become considerably strained and worsened and a certain amount of bitterness began to develop and the matter was referred to the hon. the Prime Minister by our Commissioner in East Africa. It was considered by the Cabinet entirely from that political angle.

Sri Tirumala Rao: What is the political angle?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: There was a good deal of bitterness against our people on this account because African nationals felt that they were being put to this loss by the failure—something more than failure—of a Bank run by Indian nationals. That position became so serious that our Indian Commissioner brought to our notice that the position was one which required consideration by the Government of India. What the Cabinet did was to sanction an amount of Re. 1 lakh which they placed at the disposal of our representatives in East Africa for payment *ex gratia* to the poorest classes of African depositors at the rate of 50 per cent. of their deposit amounts. Mr. Sidhva said that this was an extraordinary thing for Government to have done. This has nothing whatever to do with the liquidation proceedings. It has nothing whatever to do with the steps that are being taken here towards disposal of the affairs of this Bank. This is a payment altogether outside the sphere of the liquidation proceedings. Government have paid this in order to provide

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relief for people who have suffered at the hands of an institution run by our people. It is a purely political arrangement that has been made. Our Commissioner has been given discretion in this matter. He has got to restrict payment to the poorest class of African depositors. If he thinks fit, he may also make payment to the poor class of Indian depositors also. But primarily it is meant for African nationals and limited to a lakh of rupees. Again, payment will be made only up to fifty per cent. of the amounts due to depositors. That is a matter which we were compelled to consider in view of the seriousness of the situation. An amount of a lakh of rupees, I think, is a small expenditure for the Government to incur in view of the seriousness of the situation.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know whether this one lakh is the limit? Is it an end of it and no more will be demanded to purchase the love of the African people?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am sorry that my hon. friend speaks in these terms. If he only knew the facts of the situation he would understand that it might have developed into a serious situation, from the point of view of India.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: I wanted to know, if once payment has begun to be made to these people, there may be further demands and we may have to proceed beyond this one lakh.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The amount of one lakh is the amount that we are prepared finally to place at the disposal of our representative, and it is entirely at the discretion of our representative that payments would be made. If, on the basis of payments up to 50 per cent. of the deposits of the poorest classes of depositors, he finds that the amount is exhausted, there is an end of it.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I would like to know, firstly, the number of African nationals to whom this amount is to be paid *ex gratia* and, secondly, whether this will not act as a rather bad and unhealthy precedent for the future—in the event of another private bank failing in another foreign country, and, in the interest of our mutual relations, whether we may not be called upon to make similar payments *ex gratia* to the nationals of those countries in which the private banks might have failed and in which banks the nationals of those countries might have invested their money.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Cases of this kind would have to be considered on their merits individually. With regard to the point that my friend has raised, he will find in the Bill, which I have introduced in this House, provision has been made for the exercise of greater scrutiny and control over the opening of branches of banking concerns by Indians in foreign countries.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 40,83,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'External Affairs'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 69.—CIVIL WORKS

Mr. Chairman: Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 29,56,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Civil Works'."

There is a cut motion by Mr. Sidhva. Is he moving it?

Shri B. K. Sidhva: I am not moving the cut motion. I only want to elicit some information. The foot-note under this item states "The additional provision is required to finance urgent repairs and maintenance works on Government Buildings and properties which cannot be postponed for want of funds". As far as the policy of the Government in regard to the maintenance of their buildings is concerned, I have found that at times they adopt a policy of false economy and proper amounts are not provided for the maintenance of properties worth crores of rupees. To that extent I entirely agree with the provision every year of funds sufficient to see that our properties are kept intact and in a proper condition. But what I find here is that we provide the money, but that money is not properly utilised. That is the position. I have seen in certain buildings that the repairs and maintenance during the year are absolutely half done although the full amount was provided for the repair and maintenance of those buildings. There is also no proper supervision. As we know, and as my hon. friend the Minister in charge, Mr. Gadgil, himself knows, this Department is full of corruption. (*Interruption*). It is an admitted fact. He has himself admitted on the floor of the House that several persons have been prosecuted for corruption. It is no secret, and I am not making any allegation. It is an admitted fact and the cases against those persons are going on. And the P.W.D. is always well-known for that. On the contrary I am very glad that he has taken that bold step of seeing that those men are prosecuted so as to teach a lesson to others that such a thing would not be tolerated. To that extent I give him all credit. We all know what sort of Department it is, not only here but everywhere. Now, I would like to know what has necessitated this extra provision. Is it that the amount that had been provided in the last Budget was not properly used or misused? The statement here is very vague—it merely says that additional provision is required for urgent repairs. I would like to know what were those urgent repairs which were overlooked at the time of the last budget. I would like to know whether anything has newly cropped up, any extraordinary thing has come up in regard to maintenance, for which additional provision has become necessary. The information that has been given here is very inadequate. We must have fuller information as to why all of a sudden this increased provision has become necessary. I am for providing more money. I can tell my hon. friend that I will vote for it, because if you don't provide money for this purpose and if you don't keep your buildings in a proper condition, you lose to that extent the value on the building. That is false economy. From that point of view there should be no retrenchment. At the same time, we have to see that the money which is provided is properly spent. It was for that reason I tabled the cut motion of Rs. 10 lakhs, that is, to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that while it is good policy to maintain our buildings in a proper condition—and something may have cropped up, according to him for new maintenance charges which, however, neither I nor the House could know of, because the explanation given here is very vague—I want to know whether the position is that the money provided in the last budget was not properly used and the repair works not properly carried out, or that all of a sudden these additional works have cropped up and require money and he has therefore come before the House for that purpose. That is the point. I would like to know what are these urgent repairs that have cropped up all of a sudden.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: I have only to elicit information from the hon. Minister.

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. I would like to remind hon. Members that we have to finish the agenda set down for today by six o'clock. Mr. Sidhva began by saying that he would like to have some information, but he has made a speech. If that is the sort of question that other hon. Members want to put,

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the time of the House will be very greatly wasted. I would request hon. Members to co-operate with the Chair in finishing the programme set down for today by six o'clock or even earlier, because hon. Members know that we have got another engagement after the House rises.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Sir, I will not make a speech.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: We are entitled to make a speech.

Mr. Chairman: I do not deny that the hon. Member has a right to make a speech. But I would request hon. Members to confine themselves to the relevant questions and also to be very brief.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Sir, I want to elicit some information. The M.L.A. quarters also come under the heading of repairs to Government buildings. I was informed by one of their officers that the Ministry had decided not to have any white-wash or any repairs to M.L.As' quarters. I want to know whether white-washing was really sanctioned in the Budget.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister of Works, Mines and Power): I don't think the M.L.As. require white-washing.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: But the Ministry requires it!

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That is why I require the money. Grant it.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Money was included in the Budget for this purpose. I want to know where that money has gone. Those quarters have not been white-washed. I would ask him to please look into his accounts and see where the money has gone and whether only the books say that the houses have been white-washed. If you have given up the programme of white-washing, I hope you have made some saving thereby. If all the Government buildings are not going to be white-washed this year, it will save you lakhs of rupees. Sir, I would like to know what is the real position.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I am very grateful to my friend, Mr. Sidhva, for his statement that there should be no false economy. As a matter of fact, the amount now demanded was really asked for at the time when the original estimates were framed, but we were asked, as a matter of economy, to keep down the figure, hence the figure that was included in the Budget was agreed to because there was no other option. Let me tell the House what is the proportion of expenditure that we have asked for and what is the normal proportion asked for in view of the value of the property which is undoubtedly great. I may bring to the notice of this hon. House what really is included when we refer to maintenance and repairs. This item includes:

Actual repairs to buildings, repairs to electrical installations, repairs to water and sanitary installations, maintenance of horticulture, repairs and maintenance of furniture, rents payable to landlords for requisitioned property, repair and maintenance of requisitioned property, taxes to municipality, conservancy charges, and maintenance of air-conditioning installations.

These are there apart from the item of dearness allowance which has increased in the course of the current year. Now, I will give some idea about the value of the property belonging to the Government of India all over the Union. It comes to Rs. 38,86,79,610. That is the book value. This property, for purposes of maintenance, has been divided into two categories: those buildings built before the war and others built subsequently. So far as the properties built before the war are concerned, the normal rate of maintenance at that time was 1½ per cent. So far as the other category of property is concerned, the maintenance rate was 3 per cent. But, on account of the

rise in prices and wages, the standard of the reasonable rate at which maintenance can be calculated has been fixed at 8 per cent. So far as the maintenance and repair of electric installations are concerned, the standard rate is 10 per cent. To be precise, what we would require according to these standards would be Rs. 1,94,85,000, divided as follows:

	Rs.
Structural repairs to buildings	... 64,00,000
Maintenance of electric installations	... 38,00,000
Repairs and maintenance of water and sanitary installations	... 27,80,000
Horticulture	... 13,00,000
Furniture	... 3,00,000
Rent for requisitioned property	... 21,90,000
Repairs and maintenance of requisitioned property	... 2,00,000
Municipal taxes	... 15,00,000
Conservancy charges	... 1,00,000
Maintenance of air-conditioning installation	... 3,15,000
Electric and water charges	... 6,00,000

That will give a total of Rs. 1,94,85,000. As a matter of fact, we have asked for Rs. 1,48,00,000. We have cut down considerably with the result that the standard of maintenance has undoubtedly suffered, and if my hon. friend Mr. Tyagi was informed by one of the officers that there would be no annual white-washing, there must be some force in it because of these reasons. On top of all this, what has happened this year is this. We were under the impression that the grant of additional dearness allowance was not admissible to the work-charged establishment, but we were informed that they should also come in within the benefit of that, and that meant an additional expenditure of Rs. twelve lakhs. Then there was an increase in the municipal taxes all over the country. That accounts for Rs. three lakhs.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: So there is nothing to be repaired?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: They are all included under this category. I have just read out the details for the benefit of hon. Members. Sir, then there was some dispute about the rent of certain properties in Bombay which was going on for nearly two years; the decision was received in the current year and we had to pay arrears of rent to the extent of Rs. five lakhs. All that comes to twenty lakhs. The only additional sum that we are spending for repairs which are absolutely necessary, is Rs. nine lakhs. If I go by the standard which I have just laid before the House, the House would be thoroughly justified in giving me another fifty lakhs, and if that is done, I promise not only annual but six-monthly white-washing of the quarters of M.A.Ls. and also give them such facilities as gardening so that they may argue all the better here.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: You said, "rent, maintenance and repair". Rent is not the point involved.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The rent that we pay for the requisitioned houses is included. Therefore the amount is big.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: How much saving do you make by giving up white-washing this year?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The drops make the ocean. If I cut drop by drop everywhere, it will be a big ocean. Sir, so far as the amount of Rs. 9 lakhs is concerned, it is absolutely necessary.

Sir, I think I have given sufficient information to my hon. friend, Mr. Sidhva.

Dr. Mono Mohon Das (West Bengal: General): May I know whether any provision has been made in this Demand for beginning the construction of a stadium in Delhi with a clubhouse containing 150 rooms?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The stadium is not a job undertaken by the Government of India, nor is it something with which the Government of India is concerned at all.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 29,55,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Civil Works'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 74—MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Chairman: Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

Shri M. Trumala Rao: Sir, I want one point to be made clear. The item, "Payment of dividend on shares of the Industrial Finance Corporation", comes to nearly Rs. ten lakhs. I presume the capital of the Corporation is Rs. five crores. The loans so far disbursed seem to be to the tune of about Rs. three crores. If all the five crores are invested even at three per cent, I think the Government will be able to make more than Rs. 15 lakhs. I want to know how the business of this Corporation is being managed because we had no occasion to know anything about it before. What is the sort of interest the permanent officials as well as the directors are taking in seeing that the Corporation comes up to the expectations of the Government in earning the minimum interest of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent? I am told that for applicants for loans the Corporation charges about five to six per cent, and there is nearly a clean margin of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for all the loans. Even if the whole amount is invested in Government securities at three per cent. per annum, a profit of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. will be made over the investment. I do not know how so much loss has come about. I do not know whether the Corporation is not able to absorb the total capital available to it or whether the cost of the administration is top-heavy. I want to know also the policy followed by the Directors in disbursing these loans and whether any vested interests are not created for any particular group of Directors. I want to ensure that people who disburse the money and people who receive the money are not having identical interests. If a man wants to offer his services as a Director of the Corporation and help in building up the Corporation, he must give up his interests elsewhere, so that he may not try to take advantage of the assistance and help which the Corporation renders. I want to know whether the Government would look into this to see that the disbursed money is not spent to the extent of Rs. eleven lakhs for subsidising an institution whose rate of interest is only $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: I want to have some information about the Fiscal Commission. It is said here that for this year the intention is to spend Rs. 8,26,400 on the establishment of the Fiscal Commission which will enquire into the methods and plans for encouraging industries or for improving them. This Fiscal Commission is a very important item and I want to ask the hon. Minister why he has never placed any details relating to it before the House for discussion. We must know the objective of the Fiscal Commission; what was being aimed at? What was the total cost that was estimated? For how many years it will work at this rate? And what is the scheme behind it? These are all important matters of policy on which the House must be taken into the confidence by the Finance Minister, or, I do not know, the Commerce

Minister. I only hope that the House will be taken into confidence as to what was being aimed at and if not now, at least during the next Budget session or even whenever the hon. Minister finds it easy for him to explain matters, if he would take the House into confidence, I shall feel obliged.

Shri E. K. Sidhva: I find under item 1.10 aid to Kashmir Rs. 84,42,000 gross expenditure and then—deduct recoveries—a similar amount. I want to know if this is merely a book entry or a real amount which will come back to the Government? Is this a loan advanced to Kashmir Government to be recovered later on? I want this little clarification.

Then, Sir, item (b) of the footnote says that a sum of Rs. 45 lakhs has been given to the United State of Travancore and Cochin to meet the financial hardship caused to the Union consequent on the abolition of land customs after the merger with Cochin. We discussed this morning a similar proposition regarding Saurashtra. I want to know if we are giving this *ad hoc* grant on the same basis as Saurashtra.

Then item (d) of the footnote says that the accounts of the Industrial Finance Corporation disclose a short fall of Rs. 10,89,492/2/4. I want to know the reason for this loss. Is this organisation not to be run on a commercial basis? The Act itself provided that private deposits should also be received. I want to know if private deposits are received and if so, what is the interest paid on them? What is the reason for this heavy loss in the very first year? When we passed the Industrial Finance Corporation Act, it was understood that not only would this Corporation be self-supporting but it would also help the industries of the country. With that object in view this Corporation was created and I am rather surprised to find a deficit in the first year. I do not know if it is the first year.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes, it is the first year.

Shri E. K. Sidhva: Then, of course, there may be some extraordinary reasons for loss in the first year, but I would like to know whether in the future at least this Corporation would be self-supporting. I would also like to know the reasons for this loss which have necessitated the Minister's coming to the House for supplementary grants. These are my only points, on which I seek information.

The Honourable Shri K. O. Meegay: I should like to say a very few words in reply to my hon. friend Shri Mahavir Tyagi. I would draw his attention to a Resolution that was published on the 20th of April 1949 by the Government of India indicating the reasons which had led to the appointment of the Fiscal Commission and also setting out the terms of reference. At the same time and on the very same day, a Press Note also was issued which was widely published all over the country. Now, a Fiscal Commission had reported in 1922 laying down certain lines on which "discriminating protection"—as they called it—could be granted to Indian industries. During the war, however, certain industries which had come into existence had been given some special assurances of a temporary character in regard to protection and other Government aid. It was implicit in these assurances that the more permanent policy of the Government in regard to these issues would be considered at no very distant date. For all these various reasons, this Commission was appointed.

I would very briefly refer to a few out of the terms of reference in which the House may be interested. The first one is "the future policy that Government should adopt in regard to protection of industries". The House is greatly interested in this question and it is my privilege now and again to bring up measures for the protection of different industries in India. I know how very critical the House is of the very policy of protection. Now, I thought

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that the Government of India was expected to have an objective study made of all the issues relevant to the consideration of this policy of protection, so that we may lay down our future policy also after considering the report of this Commission.

The second term of reference was as regards the machinery that should implement any such policy of protection. Here again, I have found that the House is very critical sometimes—I would not say the House,—but certain individual members of the House are rather very critical of the constitution and the composition of the Tariff Board. We wanted to have the assistance of this Commission here also for the purpose of determining whether the composition and the constitution of the Tariff Board requires to be reconsidered.

A third point, which is also of some importance, is whether we should continue to adhere to the Geneva Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the Charter of the International Trade Organisation. It was my privilege some time ago to raise a debate on this very issue, and on that occasion I found that the House was rather critical of the proposal that India should adhere to these international trade obligations. On this point also, we expect the Fiscal Commission to advise us after consulting all the various interests in the country.

I might add that, although these are the formal terms of reference, I have informally requested this Commission to assist Government in regard to another matter of some importance to this country and of particular interest to this House. I have requested the Chairman to try and consider the question of continuance of what used to be called "imperial preference" in our fiscal system.

It is a misnomer to call it 'Imperial Preference' any longer. By whatever name you may call it, the demand has been voiced in this House more than once, that we should do away with any vestige of imperial preference. Now on that issue also I have sought, though informally, the assistance of this Commission.

I do not know whether my hon. friend wanted to know something about the financial implications. Now the total original estimated cost was Rs. 3,58,600 but the revised estimate has been reduced to Rs. 3,26,400, although the period during which the Commission was expected to complete its enquiry has had to be prolonged. Originally it was expected that the Commission would be able to finish its labour by the end of December, but on more recent reports from the Commission it has been decided to extend its term of office till at least the end of February. So, the House would see that all possible economy is being practised and we are well within the original estimate.

The Honourable Dr. John Mathai: Sir, I will confine myself to the specific points which have been raised with regard to the Industrial Finance Corporation. The House will realise that it started work only in July 1948. This is its very first year and the business is just getting into full swing. In the meantime, as hon. Members will realise when funds cannot be invested in regular business concerns, all that may be done is to put it in securities, in treasury bills, and so on. The return that they get by investment, for example, in short term government investment like treasury bills is very small. Obviously, it would not yield anything like the minimum rate of return which Government have guaranteed. Actually, so far as I am able to judge, the Industrial Finance Corporation has made a promising start and considering the fact that this is the very first year, I am not surprised that it has not been able to pay the minimum rate which is guaranteed by the

Government of India. But no judgment on the work of the Industrial Finance Corporation should be based upon the results of the first year's working.

The question of the aid to Kashmir has also been raised by my hon. friend Mr. Sidhva. That aid is really on the basis of a loan to the Kashmir Government.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is it recoverable?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes.

As regards land customs arrangements, the Travancore State had a land customs border between Travancore and Cochin. When the two States became a Union, obviously the land customs had to be abolished. As an ad hoc arrangement, as Mr. Sidhva put it, we decided to compensate the Travancore Government in respect of the greater part of the loss that they have incurred by the abandonment of the land customs.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 75—EXPENDITURE ON REFUGEES

Mr. Chairman: Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,25,00,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Expenditure on Refugees'."

Shrimati G. Durgabai: Sir, I do not wish to make a long speech, but I want to know some details in connection with the expenditure of this Department. Sir, the Ministry has come forward for an additional sum of Rs. 3,25,00,000. The original grant made was Rs. 0,85,17,000. Sir, I want to know why the necessity arises for this additional grant. I understand that the relief and rehabilitation work has progressed very satisfactorily and it is now coming to an end. I also understand that the three big relief camps at Kurukshetra, Deoli and Chakradhar are in process of being wound up, because the refugees in them have been rehabilitated. For instance, townships have been built at Faridpur, Rajpura and Kalyan. A large number of refugees have been sent to these townships with the result that they are no longer under the care of the Government of India. I also understand that the free ration and free feeding arrangements in the camps have also been discontinued. Therefore, I fail to know why the necessity for continuing these camps as specified in the foot-note here arises. I would request the hon. Minister to enlighten the House on this matter.

Sir, I also wish to know whether the Government has got any long-range policy with regard to this matter; whether they have any target date by which they want to bring this work to a successful close?

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Sir, this is the largest item of expenditure which is presented to the House for supplementary grant, the second largest being Customs. The amount demanded under this head is Rs. 3,25,00,000. Yet, Sir, the information supplied to us is very meagre. There is no detailed information as to why this huge amount is required. The footnote says that a part of the excess is due to the extension of gratuitous relief in camps for a period longer than six months, originally contemplated, and provision for replacement of tents in camps, etc., etc. Now, I want to know whether

[Shri B. K. Sidhva]

the original provision in the Budget was only for six months. If that is so, then I know that there is a demand from the refugees in camps to continue this gratuitous relief, which means free feeding as far as I understand—if it is anything more I would like to be corrected. Some refugees in camps have demanded its continuance. I would like to know whether it is in pursuance of that demand that this Rs. 1,23,73,000 which is shown as 'feeding, clothing and medical charges' demanded. I also want to know whether Government intend continuing feeding these refugees, or give them houses leaving them to earn for themselves. By wasting this money over free feeding, you are making these people not self-supporting, not self-respecting but all S.P.M. the time to be slaves. The hon. Minister must give them the right kind of education and must inculcate in them the spirit of self-reliance. If instead of doing this, we provide houses for all the refugees, I can assure you that they will not demand free feeding. Once you provide them with houses, all this trouble, all this bother and financial difficulty will be over. Unless houses are provided, they will go on making these demands which are neither beneficial to them nor to the State. How long, I ask, Sir, are you going to provide them with this free feeding, rather than rehabilitate them in a proper manner? I therefore desire that instead of wasting this crore and twenty-three lakhs of rupees, hon. Minister should provide them with houses. I know some of them may need free feeding, but if you provide them with houses, they will be inclined to go anywhere and do some kind of work. As far as feeding is concerned, many of the refugees—I have actually talked to many of them—would not approve of this policy that the State should come forward for feeding them. They want some kind of real rehabilitation so that they may stand on their own legs. This is the general feeling of a large section of the displaced persons.

Then, Sir, comes the grant to Provincial Governments. May I know why this additional grant is given. What necessity has arisen for this fresh grant? What is the programme on which this amount will be spent? This supplementary grant is provided for what? We do not mind this money being spent if the condition of the refugees will improve. Nothing is mentioned about the reasons for which this grant is sought to be given to the provincial governments.

There is another item of expenditure, miscellaneous schemes Rs. 82,15,000. Explanation (b) says, "intensifying the schemes of rehabilitation and additional schemes of rehabilitation in Andamans, Bhopal and Rampur." The other day we were told in reply to a question that in the Andamans there are only fifteen families.

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Sabhna (Minister of State for Rehabilitation): No, no.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: That is what we were given to understand. So far as Bhopal and Rampur are concerned, there was some provision in the Budget. Has the refugee population at Bhopal or Rampur increased after the calculation in the last Budget? Why is this provision being increased? What is the meaning of intensifying these schemes? What sort of rehabilitation is being done for which Rs. 82 lakhs are demanded?

Now, the other grant is "F. 4 (S) other grants Rs. 50,00,000." Here also the information given is incomplete. Nothing is said to explain this. We want every bit of this money which is taken away from this House in the name of rehabilitation of displaced persons should be well-spent and we want to know whether it is well-spent. I have seen the conditions in the Kayan

camp, in Bombay where a lakh of these displaced persons are residing. I have seen how much money is being wasted there. I do not know whether the hon. Minister knows it and whether any complaint has been brought to his notice. Other grants? To whom? The House is entitled to this information and it should have been informed of this before this question was raised by Members so that we would have full information of how this amount is going to be spent. Of course, no amount which you set aside for them will be sufficient until they are provided with houses. Instead of bringing in all these schemes, it would be better if some scheme on that larger basis for housing them is taken up and they are rehabilitated permanently in their own homes.

Lala Achint Ram rose.—

Shri B. Das: Are you not adjourning the House now, Sir?

Lala Achint Ram rose.—

Mr. Chairman: I would remind the House that there are four more supplementary demands in respect of General Budget and then there is the Railway Budget and we have got three Bills to refer to Select Committee today. If they are not finished today, they will have to come up tomorrow and that will mean so much less time for the sugar debate. I am entirely in the hands of the House. If the House desires that the whole thing should be finished today, and if all are agreed, we may apply the guillotine at 5.30 and pass all the items. I am entirely in the hands of the House.

The Honorable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I assure you that the Railway Demands will not give the slightest trouble, nor need hon. Members have any concern over that matter.

लाला अचिन्त राम : इस वक्त हमारे सामने तीन बीषाई करोड़ रुपये का सप्लीमेंटरी बजट (Supplementary Budget) रिहैबिलिटेशन (Rehabilitation) के लिये रखा गया है। मैं समझता हूँ कि हम सब लोगों को इसका दिल से सपोर्ट (support) हैं और मुझे यकीन है कि अगर मिनिस्टर साहब के पास में होता तो वह ज्यादा बजट की सिफारिश करते। लेकिन मजबूरी की वजह से उन्होंने ऐसा किया है।

इस बजट की मांग पेश करते हुए मिनिस्टर साहब ने यह दलील पेश की है कि ६ महीनों से लोगों को खाना देना पड़ा जिसकी वजह यह मांग पेश की गई है। एक दलील यह भी दी गई है कि टेंट्स (tents) बहुत पुराने हो गये हैं इस लिये उनको बदलना था। मुझे इस बात को देख कर हैरानी होती है कि जब साक्षात् बजट पेश किया गया था तो उस समय इस बात का खयाल क्यों नहीं किया गया। मुझे ताज्जुब है कि अपने घर के इन्तकाम के लिये उनको यह मालूम होना चाहिये था कि किस बीज की जरूरत है और किस बीज की जरूरत नाने होने वाली है।

बन्द दिन हुए मैं किंग्सवे कैंप (Kingsway Camp) में गया था। रात को सब साढ़े दस बजे का समय होगा। वहाँ पर ४०० टेंट्स हैं, उनकी हानत

[शाला अचिन्त राम]

बहुत सारा बी और बिस्कुल फटकर टुकड़े टुकड़े हो गये थे। मैं टैन्ट के मोतार गया तो वहाँ पर एब: आदमी सिक्कड़ा पड़ा हुआ था और उसको नुमोनिया हो गया था और बाद में वह मर गया।

एक माननीय सदस्य: राम, राम।

शाला अचिन्त राम: वहाँ पर सब ही टैन्टों में इस तरह की हालत थी। इसी तरह आभासपुर कैंम्प की भी दशा है। वहाँ लोगों को बहुत कष्ट उठाना पड़ रहा है। इस बम्बट में एब: लास रुपया एकमोडेशन के लिये रखा गया है। मेरी समझ में यह नहीं आता कि इसमें क्या क्या शामिल है। इस एकमोडेशन में पानी, रोसनी और लैटरिन का भी प्रबन्ध किया गया है या नहीं है। बिगम्बे कैंम्प, वहाँ पर २५ हजार आदमी रहते हैं मगर उन लोगों के लिये वहाँ पर पानी और लैटरिन का कोई भी अच्छा इन्तजाम नहीं है। वहाँ पर सिर्फ ८ नल लगे हैं और उन पर भी पानी अच्छी तरह से नहीं आता। टोटी सब की साराब हो गई है और एब: ही नल में पानी आता है। पानी तो बरबाद हो रहा है मगर उसका वहाँ के लोग अच्छी तरह से इस्तेमाल नहीं कर सकते। लैटरिन का यह हाल है कि वहाँ पर लोगों की लाइन लगी रहती है और बम्बटों के बाहर नम्बर आता है। मेरी बहिन ने कहा है कि रुपया मंजूर क्यों किया जाता है। तो मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ कि वहाँ पर २५,००० आदमी रहते हैं और वहाँ पर लैटरिन का कोई अच्छा बन्दोबस्त नहीं है।

मेरी बहिन श्रीमती दुर्गाबाई को शायद थोड़ी गलत कहनी है। इस वक्त रिप्यूजीय में बहुत सक्ता बेचैनी है। मैं मानता हूँ कि गवर्नमेंट ने बहुत कुछ किया है लेकिन साथ ही यह न: समझिये कि सब मसला हल हो गया है। अभी बहुत कुछ करना बाकी पड़ा है। सात लाख आदमी कैंम्पों में पड़े हैं। उनके लिये मकान बनाने की जरूरत है। आपकी स्कीमें बनती हैं पाँच सात हजार या बीस पचीस हजार आदमियों के लिये। इसी तरह दवाइयों का हाल है। पिछले साल गवर्नमेंट ने इसके लिये रुपया संकलन किया कि दवाइयों की आप:। लेकिन वहाँ पर जा कर कोई नहीं पूछता कि दवाइयों मिल रही हैं या नहीं। मैं कहा गया तो वह घालूष हुआ कि मरीजों के लिये दवा नहीं मिल रही है। यहाँ दवा देने के लिये आदमी नहीं है।

अब मैं आपको एब: बात मतलाऊँ जिसको तुन कर आप हंरान होने। मैं रिप्यूजीय की हालत देखने के लिये गया था तो वहाँ पर देखा कि टैन्ट्स लगे हुए हैं जिनकी मरम्मत की सक्ता जरूरत थी। वहाँ पर साथ ही मैंने यह भी देखा कि ४०० बॅरेक्स (barracks) लानी थे। साथ वहाँ सरदो में मर रहे हैं और साथ

ही यह बंरक लाली पड़े हैं। मैंने पूछा कि यह किसके लिये हैं तो कहा गया कि पुलिस के लिये हैं। मैंने सवाल किया कि पुलिस आती क्यों नहीं है तो कहा कि पुलिस नहीं आती है। वहां रिपोर्ट में कहा जाता है कि यह रीहैबिलिटेशन डिपार्टमेंट (Rehabilitation department) के मातहत नहीं है। लेकिन गौर कोजिये कि ४०० बंरक (Barracks) लाली पड़े हैं और वहां पर ही साथ में आदमी सरदी में मर रहे हैं। तो यह आदमी वहां बंरक में क्यों नहीं आ सकते, यह इसीलिये है कि दो महकमों में कोआर्डिनेशन (co-ordination) नहीं है। मैं अभी ९ तारीख को वहां गया था और वहां मैंने देखा कि कैंप (camp) खुले पड़े हैं जिनमें कि न तो सरदी से बचत हो सकती है न बरसात से और न गरमी से ही बचा जा सकता है। मैं यह मानता हूँ कि आपको इस रुपये की जरूरत है, मरम्मत के लिये भी खपया चाहिये और टेंटों (Tents) के लिये भी खपया चाहिये। लेकिन आपके टेंटों की यह हालत हो रही है।

इसी तरह मैं आपसे पूछता हूँ कि एजुकेशन (education) में क्या क्या शामिल है। यह ठीक है कि टीचर (teacher) की जरूरत है, मकान की जरूरत है। लेकिन कम से कम आप देखेंगे कि वहां कहीं ऐसी जगह तो हो कि जहां बच्चे बैठ कर पढ़ सकें। मैंने वहां जा कर देखा कि कैंप पड़े हुए हैं जहां न सरदी से बचाव हो सकता है, न बरसात से। और वहां बच्चों के बैठने के लिये न बेंचे हैं, न कोई जूट का टाट ही है। बल्कि वहां एक मामूली ट्यूटोर भी नहीं है। और वहां है क्या? वहां इतनी इतनी मिट्टी पड़ी हुई है। मैं समझता हूँ कि घर में ठहर कर तो शायद सफ़ाई का ख्याल रखा जा सकता है लेकिन यहां तो यह भी नहीं होता। अगर इसी तरह एजुकेशन देना है, इसी तरह पानी बहता जावेगा, और इसी तरह दवाइयों का इन्तजाम रहेगा तो मैं पूछता हूँ कि खपया संक्षान (sanction) कराने की क्या जरूरत है। मैं तो कहता हूँ कि आप चाहे रीहैबिलिटेशन के बास्ते ३ करोड़ के बजाय १० करोड़ रुपये मांगें और खर्च करें, चाहे इसके लिये आपको रीहैबिलिटेशन टैक्स (Rehabilitation Tax) भी लगाना पड़े, लेकिन जो खपया खर्च हो उसका ठीक तरह से इस्तेमाल किया जाना चाहिये।

वहां मुझे एक ख्याल याद आया है। लोगों को रजाइयां देने के लिये खपया रखा गया था। यह रजाइयां विटर (winter) में देनी थीं। अब विटर कब शुरू होता है। शुरू होता है अक्टूबर में और खत्म होता है मार्च में। पर रजाइयां लोगों को मिलती हैं अप्रैल में। तो इस तरह का इन्तजाम होता है। अब आप पेश कर रहे हैं कि टेंट्स नये खरीदे जायेंगे। सरदी के लिये ये चाहिये। दिसम्बर गुजर चुका है। मैं अब पूछता हूँ कि यह टेंट्स अब उनको कब मिलेंगे, जब दो महीने और

[लाला बबिन राम]

बुद्धर जायेंगे। तो अब मैं समझता हूँ कि इतनी बात करने के बाद मिनिस्टर साहब इस पर स्थान करने और मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि जल्दी ही इन्तजाम किया जायेगा क्योंकि इपया तो बापको मिल ही जायगा, आठ दिन के बन्दर यह मंजूर ही ही जायगा। मेरी दरखास्त है कि एम्बुकेशन का जो इन्तजाम है उसको ठीक कीजिये, पानी का इन्तजाम ठीक कीजिये और दवाइयों का इन्तजाम ठीक कीजिये। मैं यह मानता हूँ कि बापके पास इपया नहीं है, आपने एक लाख इपया टैट्स के लिये रखा है। मेरा स्थान है कि मैंने जो कुछ वहाँ देखा है उससे तो यही पता लगता है कि बिलने टैट्स वहाँ है वह सब रिप्लेस (Replace) करने के लायक है। वहाँ एक लाख इपया कम है। लेकिन मैं कैसे कह सकता हूँ कि बाप ज्यादा इपया ले मैं। लेकिन मैं यह उद्धर कहूंगा कि जहाँ आपने और बीजों के लिये इपया रखा है वहाँ उसको कुछ कम कर दीजिये। मैं समझता हूँ कि अगर इस डिपार्टमेंट (department) के बन्दर कम तनखाह के लोग रखे जायें तो यह मिल सकते हैं क्योंकि यह डिपार्टमेंट हमेशा रहने वाला नहीं है। इस लिये मैं समझता हूँ कि पहले उनके रहने का इन्तजाम कीजिये और दूसरी जगह से इसके लिये इपया ले लीजिये। लेकिन परमारमा के लिये, देश के लिये इपये का बक्समन्दी से इस्तेमाल कीजिये और वह बात न हो कि फलां बात का स्थान हमें नहीं आया और वह यह नहीं। इस अब मैं और ज्यादा नहीं कहता हूँ।

(English translation of the above speech.)

Lala Ashraf Ram (East Punjab: General): Sir, Supplementary Budget amounting to three crores and twenty-five lakhs of rupees has been presented before us at present. I think that every one of us extends to it his whole-hearted support and am sure that had it rested with the hon. Minister, he would have provided for an increased budget. But he could not help in the matter.

While making this demand, the hon. Minister has stated that it has been necessitated by the two reasons, firstly, that gratuitous relief in camps had to be extended for a period of more than six months, and secondly the tents had to be replaced due to wear and tear. I am surprised to find that why this was not contemplated at the time of the presentation of the annual budget? I am astonished as to why he could not know this in the manner of his own household as to what was required and what was anticipated to be required in the future?

A few days ago, I happened to go to the Kingsway Camp. It was about half past ten in the night. There were four hundred tents in a very bad condition which had altogether worn out into pieces. I went inside the tent and found that a man was lying there in a shrunken condition. He had an attack of pneumonia and later succumbed to it.

An Honourable Member: Ram! Ram!

Lala Ashraf Ram: Almost all the tents there were in the same condition. One comes across a similar state of affairs in the Azadpur camp as well where people are undergoing great hardships. A sum of Rs. 1,00,000 has been reserved for accommodation purposes in this Budget. What I am, however, unable

to gather is as to what specific items constitute this sum. I would like to know whether or not facilities in respect of water, light and latrines have been accounted for in that term *vis.*, accommodation. As many as 25,000 persons are lodged in the Kingsway camp at present, but no satisfactory arrangements worth the name exist there with regard to water and latrines. There are altogether eight taps fitted there but water supply remains unsatisfactory in spite of them. The bib-cork has gone out of order in every case excepting one which is the only source of water supply at the moment. A total wastage of water is taking place, but the people remain handicapped to make a proper use of the same. As for the latrine, people queue up for hours together outside it to have their turn. The hon. Sister has asked as to why grants are sanctioned. So I would like to tell you that for a population of 25,000, there are no satisfactory latrine arrangements. The hon. Sister Shrimati Durgabai has misunderstood the position somewhat. There is an acute restlessness evident among the refugees these days. I acknowledge that the Government have gone a long way to help them but it will be wrong to assume that the problem has already been solved completely. Much remains to be done as yet. As many persons as 7,00,000 still live in the camps and there is a necessity to build houses for them. The schemes chalked out by you are limited in their scope inasmuch as they are meant for five, seven or at best 20 to 25 thousands of people only. The same is the case with the medicines. Last year the Government sanctioned some grants towards the provision and distribution of the medicines. None, however, seems to care much as to find it out at the spot whether they were really being distributed or not. On my visit there, I came to know that the sick were unable to procure any of the medicines; there was none to distribute them.

Now I would like to tell you something which may surprise you. When I had been there to see the general conditions of living of the refugees, I noticed that the tents put up for them required repairs. In the vicinity, I found 400 barracks—all empty and unoccupied even though the people were almost dying out of cold nearby. On my enquiry, I was told that they were for use of the police. On further asking why then the police do not come, I was informed simply that they do not come. Here in this report it is alleged that these camps are not under the control of the Rehabilitation Department. Just think that 400 barracks are lying vacant and near those very barracks people are dying of exposure and cold. Then why these persons cannot be accommodated in the barracks? It is due to the fact that there is no co-ordination between the two departments. I had gone there on the 9th and there I saw that the Camps are perfectly open and cannot afford any protection whatsoever against cold, rains or heat. I acknowledge that you stand in need of this grant of money; you need money to undertake extensive repairs and also to purchase new tents. But the tents are nevertheless in this condition.

In the same way I ask of you to tell me what is included in education. It is quite right that teachers are required as well as the building. But you must at least see that there must be some such place where the children might sit to receive education. There I saw that there are only open camps and these cannot afford any protection against cold or rains. There are neither benches for the children to sit upon nor even jute matting. So much so that not even an ordinary thatch is there. Then what is there? So much of dust and loose earth is lying there. I think that while at home we perhaps think of cleanliness but there even this is not taken into consideration. If you have to impart education in this manner, if the dirty and stagnant water would be allowed to accumulate as is now the case and if this very arrangement for the distribution of medicines would be continued, then I ask of you as to what is the necessity of sanctioning money for all this. I say that for rehabilitation work

[Late Achint Ram]

you may demand ten crores of rupees instead of three crores and spend the entire amount or you may have to impose a rehabilitation tax to achieve this purpose, but the money that is to be spent should be properly utilized.

An idea has just struck me. Some money was set apart to provide quilts to the people. These quilts were to be given in the winter season. Now when the winter season begins? It begins from October and lasts till March. But the people get quilts in April. That is how the work is carried on. Now you are presenting a demand that new tents would be purchased. These tents are meant for the winter season. December has already passed. Now I ask you when will they be given these tents, when two more months would have passed. So I think that after saying so much the hon. Minister would kindly take this into consideration and I hope that arrangement would speedily be made, because money you will surely get as this demand would be granted within eight days. I request you to improve the existing arrangement for imparting education, improve the water arrangement and also that of distribution of medicines. I acknowledge that you have no money. You have set apart a sum of Rs. one lakh for the tents. From whatever I saw there I have come to the conclusion that all the tents there are worth replacing. The sum of Rs. one lakh is quite insufficient. But how can I ask you to demand more money. But at least I will say so much that the amount of money that you have allotted for other things may somewhat be reduced. If it would be thought practicable to appoint in this department persons on lesser remuneration than I think people can be had because this department is not to last for long. Therefore I think that in the first place make proper arrangements to accommodate them and tap some other sources for money. But for God's sake and for the sake of our country manage the monetary matters wisely lest it may so happen that we may say that as we did not think of that particular matter so it was left out. I do not want to say anything more so I close.

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Sabhna: Sir, I think hon. Members will remember that at the time of the Budget, when this Demand was under discussion, there was consensus of opinion that the provision made was an underestimate. As a matter of fact, at that very time, I had stated that because we had not received all the amounts of expenditure incurred by the different provinces which had to be debited to the Central Government, we were not in a position to estimate the amount of expenditure that we will have to incur in the course of the ensuing year. The hon. the Finance Minister had assured me that later on, when it was found that we had to incur more expenditure on relief and rehabilitation, the necessary money would be made available and we would come to the House for a Supplementary Demand. I may also tell the House that even at that time the Ministry had demanded nearly Rs. ten crores for relief. But in view of the fact that all the expenditure had not been debited to the Central Government at that time, the Finance Ministry sanctioned only Rs. 7,75,00,000. If the whole amount had been sanctioned at that stage, I think we would not have come before the House with this supplementary demand to the tune of some Rs. three crores.

And then there were three or four contributing factors. First of all we had decided that free feeding should be liquidated by the 31st of October. Provincial governments made representations that this was not possible. I may inform the House that one Provincial Government went to the length of saying that we would have to continue this free feeding for three or four years and that it was for the Central Government to set an example and we had to make a beginning from Delhi.

My friend Lala Achint Ram said that he had been to the Kingsway Camp and found 400 tents not replaced. But he forgot to mention that we had removed at least 3,000 tents and provided tenements for the families. The question was whether we should repair the tents or build other accommodation. Ultimately we came to the conclusion that instead of repairing the tents it was better to spend the money on building mud huts. In the city of Delhi mud huts were not suitable and so we decided to remove all these tents in Kingsway, Purana Killa, Kotla Ferozesah and other places and build nearly 6,000 tenements instead.

Lala Achint Ram: But my objection is why the wear and tear was not contemplated. That is my objection.

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: The whole point is this. We wanted to replace these tents by mud-huts, but in the city this was not possible and we had to build pucca tenements. In Delhi we liquidated the problem of free feeding in April and spent the money on building these tenements.

Again we had a very big camp at Kurukshetra; it was in charge of the Government of East Punjab, and they told us that it was impossible to liquidate that camp by 31st October. But much against the advice of even my own officers I took the responsibility of liquidating that camp and we have succeeded in it. We liquidated it on the 31st October, according to our target date.

Similarly there was a camp at Deoli. There was no place to which these people could be taken. It is not correct for my friend Mr. Sidhva to say that we had provided for them at Bhopal and Rampur. As a matter of fact, at that time there were no camps at Rampur or Bhopal. It was only in the month of June that through the help of the Deputy Prime Minister it was possible to start one and settle people on land that we were able to get and we took people from Kurukshetra and Deoli to Bhopal. Again in Rampur you know it was only in the month of August that we decided to take 5,000 persons and we have taken them. Mr. Sidhva stated that we have provided for only 15 families in the Andamans. I do not know from where he got the information. If you look up the answer, there may be some typing error. About 200 families were taken originally and some more families have since gone down. So, I may inform the House that in April there were 7,80,000 persons in camps having free rations. On the 31st of October we had 8,08,900 persons who were on free rations. In the month of November this number still went down to two lakhs and my information is that it is going to be reduced further. For instance in the Province of Bombay and other Provinces, it was not possible to make schemes for rehabilitation, for taking these people from there and, therefore, they had to be fed. There was one other unforeseen item which we have to provide for and it is this, that while in these camps feeding was liquidated, these camps were converted into settlements and now we had to make arrangements for education, health and sanitation. Ordinarily, it should have been the charge of the Provincial Government, but the Provincial Government said that they had no money in the budget and that it would come up only in March next. Therefore, we have to make a provision for health, education and sanitation in all these camps where displaced persons were still living, although they were not having free rations and that accounts for several lakhs in the supplementary demand.

Shri Satish Chandra Samanta: May I know whether the East Bengal refugees are included within these Two lakhs.

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: They are included. When I said about these displaced persons, it includes the East Bengal displaced persons and if the hon. Member wants to know the number, I can give him.

Shri Arun Chandra Gaha (West Bengal General): May I know what is the amount given for that?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Sahasra: It is not possible for me to give the amount but the scales were the same as were sanctioned for other displaced persons in other camps.

Shri Arun Chandra Gaha: What amounts are to be allotted to the Provincial Governments? Does the scheme include Assam also?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Sahasra: I may inform the House that so far as relief is concerned all the expenditure is gratis and so far as rehabilitation is concerned, whatever money is spent, it is treated as a loan to the Provincial or State Governments and there we are supposed to share the losses to the extent of 50: 50.

Shri Arun Chandra Gaha: Does the extension of grant include Tipperah and Cooch-Bihar?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Sahasra: Let me give the information that I have to give first and then if I have time, I will give the information which the hon. Member wants.

Now hon. Members will remember that it is a charge on the Central Government to bear the expenses on the maintenance of unattached women and children and their number is very large and we are running homes and building houses for them. In Delhi itself, we are going to have a women's colony very soon. It will provide for about 2,000 women and children. Similarly, we have got one such colony in West Bengal; there is provision for 1,800 women and we propose to have in every province at least one such place where all unattached women and children may be kept and looked after and given education.

There was another item of expenditure which we had to provide for and it is when free feeding came to an end. There were persons who wanted to work, but they were not able to earn as much or put as much labour as an ordinary labourer would do and therefore, we had to introduce a scheme of subsidised work. For instance, in a camp like Itajpur and Faridabad and even in East Punjab, we have just sanctioned schemes where although the inmates of the camps are not given free rations, they are given subsidies on a certain scale in relation to the amount of money earned by them and labour is provided to them. We have already started on a semi-military basis labour corps and we shall have also to bear expenditure on these corps and we shall have to subsidise them.

Then I come to the points raised by hon. Members. Mr. Sidhva asked: "Is it six months?" As a matter of fact as I said that though the policy of the Government of India is to liquidate free feeding, it does not mean that we want to leave the displaced persons to themselves—we want to settle them either in business or to give them vocational training or to give them work and in case they are not able to earn sufficiently, we propose to give them even subsidies.

As regards the item 'expenditure', as I have said on a previous occasion, it cannot be denied that there has not been any waste and money may not have been as well utilised as it should have been, but hon. Members should bear in mind that after all it was an unprecedented calamity which had to be faced and that the Central Government could not function if it had not that machinery and we had to depend on the Provincial and State Governments and in such a big organization, there is bound to be waste as well as not much of economy as one would like to have.

As for the provision for housing, our scheme is that before the next summer we shall not have any displaced person without a roof; it may be a mud-house; it may be a brick-built house or it may be an evacuee property house but nobody will suffer. That is our scheme and we are pressing every Provincial Government to make necessary arrangements and I hope this will be realised.

As regards employment, it is not very easy to provide employment to people and especially when they want to be settled in business or want to have some form of employment which they had in Pakistan. Hon. Members will be glad to learn that our Mission to Japan has been successful. We have got seven technicians who have come here and we have certain machinery which, we hope, will be able to provide gainful occupation to our displaced persons and I hope when hon. Members come back in January, they will have an opportunity of seeing this machinery, and if this proves successful, then, I hope, our problem for providing employment will be solved to a large extent.

There is one complaint of hon. Members that the note does not give sufficient information, but hon. Members should not forget that we have already supplied to them two reviews and if they had taken care to read those reviews, they would have found sufficient justification for this supplementary grant (*Interruption*).

In the end, I will assure hon. Members and especially Mr. Sidhu, that the object of the Government of India is to liquidate the problem as speedily as possible, but we have our limitations. I may in this connection inform hon. Members that we have appointed a high power committee which is considering the problem as to how it could best be liquidated with the funds that are available to us or will be available to us in the next two years and as soon as we have the report of that Committee, we shall be able to shape our plans accordingly.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,25,00,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Expenditure on Refugees'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 68—ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

Mr. Chairman: Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,53,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Andaman and Nicobar Islands'."

There is a cut motion in the name of Mr. Samanta. It is out of order.

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha: It is already 5-30 P.M. The demands may be put together.

Mr. Chairman: It is now 5-30. We have got 3 more Bills. If the House agrees, I will put all the motions, together.

Shri R. K. Sinha: You put one after another. Is there any guillotine.

Mr. Chairman: Yes, by agreement.

Shri R. K. Sinha: We were not informed in the morning.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,53,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Andaman and Nicobar Islands'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 89—RELATIONS WITH INDIAN STATES

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 16,26,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Relations with Indian States'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 97—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CURRENCY

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 79,12,53,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Currency'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 99—DELHI CAPITAL OUTLAY

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 41,13,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Delhi Capital Outlay'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1949-50—RAILWAYS

DEMAND NO. 2—AUDIT

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,72,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Audit'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 8—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 25,64,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Expenditure'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 4—ORDINARY WORKING EXPENSES—ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Administration'."

The motion was adopted.

Shri R. K. Sidhva (C. P. and Berar: General): Is there any guillotine for this also? Sir, the guillotine is fixed by the Speaker by common consent. I have no objection to finishing it but we were never informed that the guillotine will be applied at 5.30. I only wish to draw your attention.

Mr. Chairman: Before Mr. Achint Ram spoke I put it to the House whether the House agrees without any dissention to guillotine being applied because it is not in my power to apply guillotine but if all members agree without any dissention. I would like to put all the motions to the vote of the House at 5.30. Mr. Sidhva was here and did not raise any objection and so by the consent of the House I am putting the demands to the House.

Shri Jaspal Roy Kapoor (U.P.: General): Can a member plead absent-mindedness?

DEMAND No. 16—OPEN LINE WORKS—ADDITIONS

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Open Line Works—Additions'."

The motion was adopted.

BANKING COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Minister of Finance): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to amend the Banking Companies Act, 1949, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Shri Deshbandhu Gupta, Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao, Shri M. Tirumala Rao, Shri Ajit Prasad Jain, Shri Upendranath Barman, Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar, Shri Prabhu Dayal Himatsingka, Shri Sureshtra Mohan Ghose, Shri Jaspal Roy Kapoor, Shri B. L. Sondhi, Shri U. Srinivasa Mallayya, Shri Jainarayan Vyas, Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad, and the Mover, with instructions to report on the first day of the Budget Session, 1950, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The provisions of this Bill cover two matters of importance. One is the liquidation proceedings of banks and the other is the question of amalgamation of banks. What this Bill seeks to do is to provide means by which amalgamation and liquidation proceedings might be speeded up.

With regard to liquidation, the whole matter was examined by a Committee appointed by the West Bengal Government consisting of a High Court Judge, the Advocate General of Bengal, the Legal Remembrancer and a representative of the Reserve Bank. The recommendations of that Committee were accepted by Government and by the Reserve Bank and an Ordinance was promulgated embodying those recommendations. The main provision in the Ordinance is that the High Court alone has jurisdiction in the matter of the winding up of banking companies and is empowered to decide all claims by or against any such banking companies. That is the main provision. There are other incidental provisions.

With regard to amalgamation, it is important that smaller banks should be enabled to amalgamate with one another in order to provide themselves with more resources for purposes of carrying on banking business and it is also necessary in some cases that small banks in one province should be enabled to amalgamate with banks in another province and with a view to doing this the main provision which is embodied in this Bill is that the amalgamation of one bank with another would have to be approved by a majority of

(Dr. John Matthai)

the shareholders representing two-thirds of the paid up capital of the whole of the Banking Company. The dissenting shareholders will have the right to be compensated by payment of equitable compensation for their shares. At present, as the House knows, under the Indian Companies Act a small minority of dissenting shareholders can hold up the proceedings altogether. This will eliminate that contingency.

There are two other matters which are covered in this Bill. One is the power which is to be given to the Reserve Bank to regulate and control the opening of branches in foreign countries by Indian Banks.

The other matter is a small one, namely, that in the definition of "assets" of banking companies in section 28 of the Banking Companies Act, the term "security" has been left without any qualification. We want to make it "approved securities".

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to amend the Banking Companies Act, 1949, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Shri Deshbandhu Gupta, Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao, Shri M. Tirumala Rao, Shri Ajit Prasad Jain, Shri Upendranath Berman, Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar, Shri Prabhu Dayal Himatsingka, Shri Surendra Mohan Ghose, Shri Jaspal Roy Kapoor, Shri B. L. Sondhi, Shri U. Srinivasa Malleyya, Shri Jinarayan Vyas, Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad, and the Mover, with instructions to report on the first day of the Budget Session, 1950, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Pandit Govind Malaviya (U. P.: General): May I request you, Sir, to give us a ruling. Even though under the Rules of Procedure there may be nothing against it, I beg you to say whether it is fair that motions for taking into consideration or referring to Select Committee, Bills of such importance should be placed before the House at quarter to six in the afternoon at the lag end of a session? I feel Sir, that the Rules of Procedure are meant to act also as a check against unforeseen abuse of authority. We know that under today's circumstances there is no fear, there is no apprehension, there is no danger of any such thing. But, Sir, Rules are framed and enjoined in order that, even if, unfortunately, at some time there should be an occasion when somebody in authority should like to abuse powers, there should be no possibility of his doing so. I therefore request you to give a ruling whether, even though under the Rules there may be nothing to prevent it, it is fair that a motion of this nature should be brought forward before the House at this hour.

Mr. Chairman: I am afraid there is no point of order in this. In fact the hon. Member was not present earlier in the day when I put it to the House that in case these Bills are to stand over for tomorrow the time for the Sugar Debate will be lessened to that extent. The hon. Member knows that the House is working under great pressure of time, and these Bills have been before the House for a number of days. If we have not been able to take them up earlier it is because of other business intervening. And it was with the consent of the House that I have allowed it to be brought up. There is therefore no point of order.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: The House will agree to anything.

Shri R. K. Sidhva (C.P. and Berar: General): I have been sitting here the whole day. The House never gave its consent that these Bills should be moved at 5.45 and passed immediately.

Mr. Chairman: I am sorry that Mr. Sidhva did not follow me perhaps when I made that suggestion earlier in the day that I would put the Supplementary Demands for Grants at 5.30 and that between 5.30 and 6 we have

BANKING COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL

to finish these Bills for reference to Select Committee or else we would have to take them up tomorrow which would mean so much time being lost for the other Debate, and also that I was entirely in the hands of the House. The House agreed that between 5-30 and 6 we might take up these Bills and I am putting them.

Shri B. K. Sidha: My hon. friend Pandit Govind Malaviya has raised a point—even if you have taken the sense of the House—under what rule you can say that between 5-30 and 6 the Bill should be disposed of. Of course in regard to Supplementary Demands for Grants you have fixed a guillotine. But as regards Bills, and in respect of the first reading, under what rule can you say that you have to finish it at six o'clock?

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member is right that I cannot finish it before six o'clock if hon. Members want to speak. I am entirely in the hands of the House. If the House co-operates, it will be disposed of. If, on the other hand, the hon. Member wants to speak, I will allow him to speak. I made that perfectly clear in the earlier part of the day itself.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: We don't want to speak. We don't want to make it impossible for the Government to go through its programme. I only wanted to know if it was fair.

Mr. Chairman: It was the best course in the circumstances.

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs): If these Bills are not taken up and finished today, then tomorrow so much time will be taken and the time for the other business will be cut short.

Mr. Chairman: The House knows it. I will now put the motion. The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Banking Companies Act, 1949, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Shri Deshbandhu Gupta, Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao, Shri M. Tirumala Rao, Shri Ajit Prasad Jain, Shri Upendranath Barman, Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar, Shri Prabhu Dayal Himatsingka, Shri Surendra Mohan Ghose, Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor, Shri B. L. Sondhi, Shri U. Srinivasa Malayya, Shri Jainarayan Vyas, Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad, and the Mover, with instructions to report on the first day of the Budget Session, 1950, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The motion was adopted.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES (APPELLATE TRIBUNAL) BILL

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram (Minister of Labour): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of an Appellate Tribunal in relation to industrial disputes and for certain matters incidental thereto, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri Gokulbhai Daoktram Bhatt, Shrimati Revaka Ray, Shri V. C. Kesava Rao, Shri Khandubhai K. Desai, Shri G. S. Guha, Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta, Shri Sita Ram S. Jajoo, Shri Satia Chandra Samanta, Shri U. Srinivasa Malayya, Dr. Mono Mohan Das, Shrimati G. Durgabai, Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay, Shri Sunder Lal, Prof. Shibhan Lal Sakseena, and the Mover, with instructions to report on the first day of the Budget Session, 1950, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Sir, I do not propose to take any time of the House.

Shri C. Subramanian (Madras General): Why should there be any speech at all? Why this farce of a debate?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: The Statement of Objects and Reasons is quite clear.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of an Appellate Tribunal in relation to industrial disputes and for certain matters incidental thereto, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt, Shrimati Renuka Ray, Shri V. C. Kesava Rao, Shri Khandubhai K. Desai, Shri G. S. Gaha, Shri Baiwant Simha Mehta, Shri Sita Ram S. Jaisoo, Shri Satis Chandra Samanta, Shri U. Srinivasa Mallayya, Dr. Mono Mohan Das, Shrimati G. Durgabai, Shri Miliar Lal Chattopadhyay, Shri Bender Lal, Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena, and the Mover, with instructions to report on the first day of the Budget Session, 1950, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The motion was adopted.

MINES BILL

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram (Minister of Labour): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend and consolidate the law relating to the regulation of labour and safety in mines, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri Nandkishore Das, Shri Harihar Nath Shastri, Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad, Shri O. V. Alagesan, Shri Ramana Kumar Das, Kaka Bhakwant Roy, Dr. V. Subramaniam, Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi, Shri Itai Bahadur, Shri Brajeshwar Prasad, Shri Damodar Swarup Seth, Babu Ramnarayan Singh, Shrimati Lakshayani Velayudhan, Pandit Balkrishna Sharma, Shri R. L. Malviya, Shri R. K. Sidha, and the Mover, with instructions to report on the first day of the Budget Session, 1950, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Sir, the whole intention of this amending Bill is to put the Mines Act just on the lines of the Factory Act. I do not want to go into any details. I commend the motion to the House.

श्री गोकुलभाई दौलत रान भट्ट: में इस में लालसिंह जी का नाम जोड़ने का सुझाव रखता हूँ।

Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt (Bombay States): Sir, I propose that the name of Thakur Lal Singh be included in it.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I accept it.

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to amend and consolidate the law relating to the regulation of labour and safety in mines, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri Nandkishore Das, Shri Harihar Nath Shastri, Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad, Shri O. V. Alagesan, Shri Ramana Kumar Das, Kaka Bhagwant Roy, Dr. V. Subramaniam, Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi, Shri Itai Bahadur, Shri Brajeshwar Prasad, Shri Damodar Swarup Seth, Babu Ramnarayan Singh, Shrimati Lakshayani Velayudhan, Pandit Balkrishna Sharma, Shri R. L. Malviya, Shri R. K. Sidha, Thakur Lal Singh, and the Mover, with instructions to report on the first day of the Budget Session, 1950, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Shri H. V. Kamath (C.P. and Berar: General): Sir, it is in the fitness of things that the hon. Minister of Labour should have brought this Mines Bill on the eve of the inauguration of the Free Republic of India. As a matter of fact, when the Factories Bill was discussed in this House, and later when it came up before the Select Committee of which I had the honour to be a member, this question was pointedly raised, in the Select Committee at any rate, as to whether and when the mines would be brought into line with the factories in our country. The Minister at that time, in Committee gave us the assurance that this matter would be taken up at no distant date, and I believe that now in implementation of that assurance, this Bill to amend and consolidate the law relating to the regulation of labour and safety in mines has been brought before the House this afternoon.

This, Sir, is not such an unimportant matter, at any rate in my humble judgment, as to be taken up at the fag end of the day. It may be that to us, sitting here in this comfortable House, on these cushioned benches, regulation of labour and safety in mines appears as a very distant proposition, as a very lazy and airy proposition. I am sorry at the manner of rushing this important Bill, and at the fact that the reference of it to a Select Committee should have been taken up at the fag end of the day. I am sorry indeed that the House, just because it is constituted as it is, is inclined to dismiss or to consider a thing in a light-hearted fashion and refer important Bills to Select Committee without any adequate consideration whatever.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): You can discuss it another time.

Shri H. V. Kamath: If my friend Mr. B. Das takes that attitude on this Bill, I for one can't see why all Bills, when referred to Select Committees, could not be treated in this fashion so that the time of the House could be saved: anyhow the Bill would come up later on. I don't know whether Mr. B. Das is personally interested in mines, to the extent that he does not care whether or not it is discussed at the time of reference to Select Committee. If that be so, I have nothing to say. It all depends upon what interest a member takes in a particular subject. To me this subject has been interesting in more than ordinary measure. I have lived in a Province where there have been mines of various sorts—coal mines, manganese mines and others—and I have been, I wouldn't say intimately but in a fair measure, connected with the working of these mines in one way or another. I would therefore have desired that this Bill had been taken up in a more businesslike manner, and that the Minister himself might have told the House what the present state of the various mines in our country is and what improvement or progress has been made with regard to the safety and welfare of labour in those mines during the last twelve years, since Congress assumed power in the Provinces at any rate, that is since 1937. What measures were under-proposals are on the anvil in order to regulate the labour and safety in mines? Also, I would like to know from the hon. Minister how mines are worked in other progressive countries such as Britain, America, and countries in Europe. I would not refer to the U.S.S.R.; the information may perhaps not be available with the hon. Minister, and it may perhaps be anathema in certain quarters to refer to the way labour problems are handled in the U.S.S.R. This information would have been very welcome, at any rate to me. I don't know how many hon. colleagues in this House would have desired it, but I was looking forward to a speech by the hon. Minister. I know it was not of his own choice or volition that he made no speech. Left to himself, on a more propitious occasion with more time before him, I am sure he would have been the first to make a speech on this Bill because I am sure he is proud, in his own heart, of having brought such a Bill before the House which, on his own showing, aims at bringing the mines into line with the factories. We passed the Factories Act some time last year and we know how, in moving that Bill, he felt legitimately proud of having presented such a measure before the House.

Sir, this measure is similar to that Act which we passed into law last year, but the Statement of Objects and Reasons in this Bill is not quite complete and does not give all the facts and figures that I for one would have desired in this connection. I have already stated that conditions in mines are not as good or as healthy as they might be or as they should be. We have had in recent years so many labour disputes in various mines and at one time, early this year or late last year, it was felt that Delhi might have to go for many months without any coal. As a matter of fact, in the severe

[Shri H. V. Kamath]

depths of winter, either in December last or January this year, many of my hon. colleagues here who were sitting in the Constitution House asked me, "What about coal"? We were having no coal at all, not even for.....

I am sorry, Sir. I shall not be able to finish at six o'clock exactly. If you will permit me, I will continue today or else I will do so tomorrow. But I would only bring this to your notice that I am sorry I shan't be able to finish today.

Mr. Chairman: What time would the hon. member take?

Shri H. V. Kamath: Another fifteen minutes.

Some Honourable Members: He may continue tomorrow, Sir.

Mr. Chairman: Yes.

The Assembly then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Saturday, the 24th December, 1949.